Hafa Adai!

More NMC graduates join long list of NCLEX passers. PAGE 2
HOPE Recovery Center celebrates 6 years of impacting lives. PAGE 4

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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» Finance secretary says deficit at $10.1M; task force collects $1.42M in outstanding tax receivables

Norita: Economic recovery expected in coming year

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Norita

The Palacios-Apatang administration is expecting the CNMI's economic recovery in the coming year with more tourist arrivals, federally funded construction activities expedited, and increased tax collections, according to Department of Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita.

See NORITA on Page 4

'A rising tide floats all boats'

LEIGH GASES

From left, Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Dr. Austin Shelton, director of the University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability, Dr. Austin Shelton, Dr. Darren Lerner, director for the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant Program and Sea Grant Association president, and Dr. Jonathan Pennock, director for the National Sea Grant Office, pose for a photo after their preliminary meeting with National Sea Grant Association members and NMC's leadership team last Friday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

"A rising tide floats all boats," said Dr. Austin Shelton, director of the University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability, in response to the question

See BOATS on Page 4

House rejects Senate budget bill version

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

San Nicolas

Yumul

With only Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian) opposing, the House of Representatives rejected on Friday the Senate's version of a budget bill that proposes to appropriate $114.2 million in net available resources for the government's operations for fiscal year 2024.

Sixteen House members voted "yes" to a motion to reject House Bill No. 23-66, version House Substitute 1, Senate Substitute 1.

See HOUSE on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
12

CPA successfully addresses audit findings

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Federal Aviation Administration has informed the Commonwealth Ports Authority that it has successfully addressed the issues found in its 2021 audit.

In an email addressed to CPA executive director Christopher Tenorio, FAA financial compliance manager Scott Glenn stated that based after a thorough review of CPA's efforts to resolve the issues found on its 2022 audit, CPA has successfully resolved them.

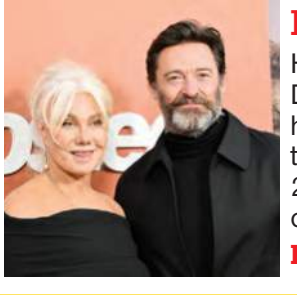
"After careful examination, we have determined that the

See CPA on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
LG Electronics has partnered with the Marianas Visitors Authority to promote the LG Healing Me Saipan massage chair.
PAGE 7

NATION
Atlantic storm Lee pummeled a large swath of New England and Maritime Canada.
PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE
Hugh Jackman and Deborra-lee Jackman have decided to end their marriage after 27 years and two children.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

More NMC graduates join long list of NCLEX passers

Koh

Manlapaz

Montes

Shakir

Northern Marianas College nursing graduates Rachelle Ann Manlapaz, Abbas Shakir, Keejooh Koh, and Angelo Tristan Montes have joined the long list of NMC students who have passed the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses or NCLEX-RN.

Nursing graduates must pass the NCLEX-RN to be able to practice nursing. The exam tests the knowledge, skills, and abilities of nursing graduates in order to certify that they are capable of applying entry level nursing practices correctly.

"I want to congratulate Rachelle, Abbas, Keejooh, and Angelo on becoming the latest graduates to pass this difficult exam and look forward to hearing more about their success as medical professionals," acting president Frankie Eliptico said.

NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa Aldan also congratulated the four on their achievements.

"Our nursing graduates continue to achieve great things, and Rachelle, Abbas, Keejooh, and Angelo are great examples of those achievements," Aldan said. "We are so proud of their amazing accomplishment and wish them all the best!"

Manlapaz, a 2023 NMC nursing graduate, draws motivation for a career in the medical field from a time in her life where she was able to witness the selfless work that nurses do.

"I wanted to become a nurse because there was a period in my life when my dad was frequently at the hospital—be it during his dialysis sessions or when he got really ill, till he passed away, and the nurses were always there to care for him," she shared.

Manlapaz is thankful for her family, friends, peers, and instructors, as they have supported and contributed to her successful passage of the NCLEX. She also acknowledged the preparation that NMC has provided for her by developing her critical thinking skills through resources such as the Kaplan, I-Human case studies, clinical rotations, and lectures.

Shakir is a 2023 NMC nursing graduate who gained inspiration to pursue this field from his father.

"My motivation for pursuing a nursing degree revolved around being with my dad throughout his medical journey," he said. "That single experience heavily inspired me to pursue a career in the medical field and I figured that nursing would be the perfect start for me."

Shakir explained how NMC had prepared him well for the exam with resources such as iHuman and the Kaplan RN program.

He added, "I also am very appreciative to all the faculty and staff who put a lot of time and effort into teaching us and guiding us throughout every step of the way."

Koh, a classmate of both Shakir and Manlapaz, gained motivation for pursuing his nursing degree because of the financial stability and career opportunities it creates.

Koh found that the Med-Surg III greatly beneficial in preparing him for the exam, stating that it felt similar to the NCLEX.

Montes, a class of 2022 NMC nursing graduate, highlights his mother, brother, and family as his motivation for pursuing a nursing degree.

He expressed how his instructors and peers were an immense form of support throughout his journey to pass the exam. "They made sure I had the right resources and methods necessary to take

the NCLEX," he said.

Furthermore, Montes underscored the role that NMC had in preparing him and his classmates for the exam, explaining how his instructors taught a lot of testing-skills along with strategic ways of answering the exams. He noted, "NCLEX is a very tricky exam and I'm very grateful to my instructors for providing us with plenty of information on how to tackle this exam."

For media inquiries, please email miguel.dandan@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

CPA board member vies for executive director position

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Commonwealth Ports Authority board member is now vying for the executive director position that was officially vacated a few months ago.

CPA board member Antonio B. Cabrera has officially informed the CPA board that he has applied for the executive director position recently vacated by Christopher Tenorio.

Cabrera, who just recently joined the board about a month ago, stated that because he is applying for the executive director position, he will be recusing himself from any discussion pertaining to the position he is applying for.

Saipan Tribune learned that Cabrera has also informed Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and the Office of the Attorney General of his intent to fill the executive director role.

Saipan Tribune tried to get a comment from CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds but she stated that as of press time, she has no comment.

The CPA officially begun the search for a new executive director following the voluntary resignation of former executive director Christopher Tenorio back in August.

During a regular board meeting on Aug. 4, CPA board members unanimously voted to open up the position of executive director to the public, kickstarting the search for the agency's new chief.

Although there are still issues to be discussed, including minimum requirement for the position, CPA board chair King-Hinds clarified that one thing is clear—the position will be open to the entire Micronesian region as well as the continental United States.

The position was officially opened on Aug. 7 to give CPA ample transition time from the old executive director to the new as Tenorio has agreed to stay on board until October.

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HOPE Recovery Center celebrates 6 years of impacting lives

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Department of Correction Commissioner Anthony Torres, right, stands alongside his older brother Charles Torres, who shared his inspiring story of overcoming addiction during the SAAR's HOPE Recovery Center's sixth anniversary celebration last Thursday in Marpi.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Dozens of community members, dignitaries, and individuals from various government agencies gathered Thursday at the Substance Abuse Addiction and Rehabilitation Program's H.O.P.E Recovery Center in Marpi for the center's sixth year anniversary.

Gov. Arnold I Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M Apatang, Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho. and many members of Legislature and Judiciary were present at the event as well as many members representing government entities and agencies.

"I want to thank especially the family who have supported those that come to the recovery center…" said SAAR special assistant Diego Sablan in his welcoming remarks, adding that he was humbled and grateful to be a part of this community.

"Because of the challenges we currently face in the CNMI we can no longer work in silos. We must work together," he said.

Department of Correction Commissioner Anthony Torres, who was one of the guest speakers at the event, shared his appreciation for the programs and their partnership with DOC

He added how effectively these programs and the center work even at a personal level as his older brother, Charles, was one of many who had overcome addiction as well.

Torres encouraged the crowd, "We must challenge the stigma surrounding addiction and advocate for increased resources to support our cause, together we empower individuals to break free from the grip of substance abuse."

Speaking about how the program, staff, and center had made personal impact on their lives, Charles Torres and Manuela Guerrero also shared their inspirational stories.

"Many people like myself are not bad people, we just made bad choices. I stand before you today not as an addict in recovery but as a survivor. A survivor who has fought a battle. A battle that many deemed unbeatable. Yet here I am. I am proof that Drug Court and recovery centers like this work," said Charles Torres, adding that along with other alumni of the drug court program, they are seeking to create their own non-profit group where they can give back to the community and help others.

Guerrero also shared that she had been to the center on four separate occasions and how addiction had estranged her and her family. Now along with a restored relationship with her family, she also has begun working at the center helping others going hrough the same battle.

"I am truly blessed and forever grateful," she said, while expressing her gratitude for the SAAR program, and the staff involved as they had contributed to who she is today.

SAAR Program manager Charlotte Flores said SAAR may be a small program but they've definitely helped change lives.

Expressing thanks to the many individuals and agencies involved in helping individuals on the road to recovery, she added, "Together we can make a difference in the lives of those struggling with addiction."

The event concluded with a benediction and the crowd joining in while singing "Amazing Grace" echoing the words, as Flores said, "there is hope."

NORITA

From page 1

In her report on Thursday about the fiscal year 2023 budget status to House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), Norita said as they monitor the revenue collections and strive to sustain government operations through these economic hardships and challenges, there is hope for economic recovery.

Norita also discussed the same report on the budget status during a press briefing via an online platform last Friday.

She said in her report that for the fourth quarter, the Marianas Visitors Authority forecasted a total economic impact of $126 million of gross tourist expenditures from the Korea market alone, with Business Gross Revenue Taxes forecasted at $5.9 million and Hotel Occupancy Tax at $1.9 million.

The secretary disclosed that Finance has made significant progress with the Marianas Public Land Trust to facilitate expedited funding of the many federally funded construction activities that have begun, including the Garapan Revitalization Project and other capital improvements awarded to the CNMI.

Norita said the taskforce has effectively collected approximately $1.42 million in outstanding tax receivables since its formation last July, and that this effort will increase tax collections in the fourth quarter and into the next fiscal year.

On Finance Fiscal Year 2023 Third Quarter Report, Norita clarified that a recent media article published a $68-million deficit in the general fund, however, the quarterly report indicated a budget deficit of $10.1 million.

Norita was referring to *Saipan Tribune*'s article that clearly quoted Legislative Bureau fiscal analyst Dave Demapan as saying during a Senate session that for the three quarters of fiscal year 2023, the CNMI government's general fund has incurred a deficit of $68.1 million, with the Department of Finance exceeding its budget by approximately $22 million and Office of the Governor by $3.4 million.

Norita on Friday said she understands that Demapan has his analysis and that it was shared to them.

She said, however, she was not able to verify how the numbers were created.

"So, what I can say is what we have provided the information that Finance has provided, and that is why I wrote a response to the Legislature just to clarify the report that came from Finance," the secretary said.

Asked for comments about Demapan's analysis that Finance exceeded its budget by $22 million, Norita said her letter to the Legislature, she has broken down the deficit that she's sharing of $10.1 million as of the third quarter.

"Again, it's due to COVID-19 disasters, law enforcement operations, our financial system, and that is the information that I had provided and that's the only comment that I can make," the secretary said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BOATS

From page 1

whether they support the Northern Marianas College's bid for Sea Grant status after a preliminary meeting with the National Sea Grant Association members and NMC's leadership team last Friday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

If approved, NMC will be funded in part by the $709,000 that UOG received from the National Sea Grant College Program.

This grant will help NMC support local initiatives and priorities developed within the islands toward conserving and protecting its precious natural resources, and to promote the efficient use of human, institutional, and financial resources to meet local and regional goals and objectives.

Shelton said, "We're in a position now that we get to share… We would like to help the Northern Marianas College hire their first Green Growth coordinator so that they can do something similar to us—and that was: Create a Green Growth Initiative, which is a sustainable development plan for the entire island…"

"If we can help and assist in any way that we can further to that, in creating implementation projects such as a conservation corps; a circular economy makerspace and innovation hub; more community gardens around the islands; or aquaponics, we're here to support and work with our friends here at the Northern Marianas College and throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," he said.

Dr. Darren Lerner, director for the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant Program and Sea Grant Association president, said about the potential Sea Grant status for NMC, "The opportunity to expand our Sea Grant Program to the Northern Marianas college and to others across the Pacific, from the point of view of the University of Hawaii only serves to make us even better over time as we continue to grow and continue to try to meet the needs of communities."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CPA

From page 1

responses along with supporting documents and updated procedures from the CPA sufficiently address the audit findings. Therefore, we conclude that no further action is required," said Glenn.

CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said she is proud of her team and FAA's response to the team's efforts is validation of their hard work.

"CPA has worked tirelessly and diligently to address and resolve issues with the audit findings. I am incredibly proud of the team and proud of their work and commitment. This response by the FAA is validation of that hard work," she said.

Among the issues that CPA has resolved are Local Noncompliance-Procurement, and Capital Assets-Equipment and Real Property Management.

To address the non-compliance regarding procurement, CPA has established standard operating procedures for procurement, developed a training plan for procurement procedures, implemented standard procurement forms, and has hired a technical consultant from a certified public accounting firm to prevent findings from recurring.

In addition, CPA has also created an internal auditor position to review procurement documents for compliance.

As for audit issues regarding equipment and real property management, CPA has hired a technical consultant, established standard operating procedures for equipment management, implemented standard equipment management forms, and has developed a training plan for equipment management procedures.

Last July 2022, the Federal Aviation Administration notified CPA that it will sanction the agency if it fails to resolve by July 31, 2022, all issues in single audit findings, including those found by an auditor again and again in subsequent years.

Sanctions could have been the suspension or termination of federal awards, initiation of suspension or debarment proceedings, or withholding further federal awards for the project or program, among other actions.

HOUSE

From page 1

Reps. Manny Gregory T. Castro (Ind-Saipan) Joseph A. Flores (Ind-Saipan), and Thomas John DLC. Manglona (R-Saipan) were absent but excused from the session.

With the rejection of the Senate's version, House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) created a conference committee with Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) as chairman, Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) as vice chairman, Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) as member, and Rep. Angelo A. Camacho (Ind-Saipan) and Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) as alternates.

A bicameral conference committee was formed to come out with a mutually agreed budget bill.

Before the voting, San Nicolas underscored the need to adopt the Senate's version of the budget bill, while Yumul and other House members explained the importance of rejecting the Senate version.

San Nicolas said as Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan had mentioned that Tinian Municipality will effectively grind to a halt should the House's version of the bill becomes into law.

San Nicolas said a lot of municipal employees will be affected and eventually lose their employment.

On the other hand, he said, according to the Senate version, there's additional funding being identified of the amount of $1.7 million for the Office of the Mayor of Tinian.

San Nicolas said this brings to a total amount for personnel and all others to the amount of $2,579,183 and this will fund 135 municipal employees of the Tinian Mayor's Office.

He said with Mayor Aldan transferring $531,277 from the Tinian Municipal Treasury to the CNMI general fund, it helps for the 24 municipal employees.

"This is a very big help for the island of Tinian," said San Nicolas as he noted that $2.7 million was cut by the administration.

He said the Senate version is a far cry from the House version of $798,251 which will only fund 27 employees for the Tinian Municipality.

San Nicolas said it is a far cry for the administration's proposal of one full time employee, which is the mayor's position.

The lawmaker said the Senate's version also removed the imaginary $9.1 million tax increase, and this is something the House minority fought during the deliberations on the concurrent resolution.

"I just want to thank the Senate for bringing equity to the fiscal year 2024," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Tinian Chamber announces new board of directors

SAN JOSE, Tinian—The Tinian Chamber of Commerce announced the appointment of seven new members to the board of directors.

John D. Attao will head the military committee, Daria Cing and Neal Eisgrou as treasury and secretary officers, respectively, while Allen Perez will guide the legislative committee with Liza Power in charge of public relations and as social media curator.

Journie Hofschneider is the newly appointed vice president and Philip M. Long will continue on as president.

"With our new members I look forward to exploring new ways to expand our membership," said Long. "To encourage and mentor new businesses on Tinian so our people are not only hosts, but also stakeholders in the effort to guarantee that this new future for Tinian is beneficial to everyone. With the many changes facing Trinian's future, it is vital that we have a healthy active Tinian Chamber of Commerce."

Attao is currently V.A. coordinator for the CNMI Veterans Affairs Office of Tinian, and is a retired U.S. Air Force. Cing is an entrepreneur of Cing Enterprises and retired former Bank of Guam branch operations manager. She served a term with the board of directors in 1990 as treasury officer. Eisgrou is a local restaurateur of popular establishment J.C. Cafe since 2003. Perez is presently chief of staff at the Tinian Mayor's Office and in previous years sat on the Chamber board as treasurer, secretary, and vice president. Power recently moved back home and was a former store manager of Chanel Guam. She currently is in construction as the business owner of Power Builders International and Consultant for FPA Pacific Corp. Hofschneider also recently moved home, and was a formerly a part of the management of Liquor and Cannabis Regulations branch, British Columbia Canada with 15 years of experience. She currently is vice chairwoman and commissioner of the CNMI Cannabis Commission and operator of Tinian Laid, farm fresh eggs.

Long

Long is the CEO of Sherman Consulting LLC and Tinian Fuel Services Inc. since 1998. Previously, he sat as chamber board member and board president since 1997.

"The Chamber of Commerce plays a vital role in fostering economic growth and supporting local businesses," said board Hofschneider. "I am ready to collaborate with fellow members on new strategies and initiatives that promote and attract investment and create job opportunities."

Tinian Chamber of Commerce is the voice for the business and professional community with which it translates the group thinking of its members into proactive agendas in regional economic development, vocational training and general services to be the most effective for the island. ***(PR)***

Late applications for FEMA assistance must be received by Sept. 26

GUAM—The deadline for Guam residents to apply for federal assistance due Typhoon Mawar was July 28, 2023. But what if you were hospitalized, or off island and unable to apply? In rare cases survivors may be eligible to submit a late application to FEMA. The deadline to submit a late application, is Sept. 26, 2023.

Eligibility

FEMA accepts late applications if extraordinary circumstances kept you from applying before the original deadline.

Interested residents who have not applied due to extenuating circumstances can still apply. FEMA will require a signed letter explaining the reason for the late application, including supporting documents that clearly state why you could not apply during the application period. This may include: Record of hospitalization, illness, or disability of the applicant or an immediate family member; death of an immediate family member; proof of personal or business travel that kept the applicant out of the area for the full application period; or evidence of unique disaster-specific circumstances.

Late application process

Guam residents have until Sept. 26 to complete a late application for federal disaster assistance with FEMA.

There are several ways to submit a late application for disaster assistance:

Apply online at DisasterAssistance.gov; Download and use the FEMA mobile app; or Call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362.

After applying mail, fax, or upload supporting documents

Valid documentation explaining the reason for a late application must be submitted within 60 days from the date the late application was completed. All supporting documents must be signed and dated and include the applicant's nine-digit FEMA application number along with the disaster number (DR-4715-GU).

Documents can be mailed to:

FEMA National Processing Service Center,

P.O. Box 10055, Hyattsville, MD 20782-8055

Or faxed to: 800-827-8112, Attention: FEMA

To upload documents online: To set up an online account or upload documents, go to www.DisasterAssistance.gov and click on "Check Your Application and Log In" then follow the directions.

Visit the following links for the latest information:

- Governor's Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/govlouguam
- GHS/OCD Website: https://ghs.guam.gov/
- GHS/OCD Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/GHSOCD/

For more information, contact the Joint Information Center at (671) 478-0208/09/10. ***(PR)***

Bill implementing universal garbage collection introduced in Guam

HAGATNA, Guam—On Tuesday, Sen. Sabina Flores Perez introduced Bill 165-37 (COR) implementing mandatory universal garbage collection for residents of the island community.

Perez

By requiring subscription, the bill aims to mitigate illegal dumping, aid the financial capacity of GSWA to effectively collect the island's refuse, and result in lower rates for subscribers due to the cost advantages of island-wide subscription promoting GSWA's scale of operation.

The bill is cosponsored by Speaker Therese Terlaje and Senators Chris Barnett, Dwayne San Nicolas, and Joe S. San Agustin.

Perez has collaborated with GSWA to ensure that the bill meaningfully achieves its objectives in implementing universal garbage collection.

"Through universal garbage collection, our island community is provided with a sustainable program for proper waste disposal services,"

Perez stated. "Such a program would join initiatives around the world incentivized to both responsibly manage municipal waste and prevent illegal dumping."

To financially support community members in need, the Bill 165-37 (COR) looks to establish a Customer Assistance Program to subsidize the cost of garbage collection service for consumers who require financial assistance. Secondly, the bill looks to streamline the subscription process for the island community through interagency coordination between GSWA and GWA. Thirdly, the bill looks to establish provisions that allow interagency coordination between GSWA and DRT concerning outstanding payments for the purposes of maintaining universal garbage collection.

Bill 165-37 (COR)'s objectives are enhanced by GSWA's efforts to improve garbage collection operations. GSWA is awaiting the delivery of an additional six trash collection vehicles over the span of the next two months, including three diesel trucks and three electric trucks. The recent hiring of in-house mechanics to service the incoming trucks, as well as the existing eight trucks in its current fleet, ensure GSWA's capacity to fulfill the mandates of this program.

"Universal garbage collection is not only beneficial, but essential to our island's ability to effectively manage waste and decrease our community's risk of experiencing hazards from improperly disposed waste," Perez said. "Our community deserves an organized, viable garbage collection program promoting the quality of life for our people and the protection of our environment." ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority
Office of the Governor
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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is notice to the general public that the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority's (COTA) Demand Responsive Shared Ride Service, Call-A-Ride Saipan (CARS) and the administrative office will be **closed** on the following days for its annual professional development.

Thursday, September 28, 2023
Friday, September 29, 2023

COTA's operation hours will resume on Saturday, September 30, 2023 and the administrative office hours will resume on Monday, October 02, 2023. We would like to kindly remind our community to plan their trips accordingly. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

/s/ ***Alfreda Camacho Maratita***
Special Assistant for Public Transportation

2nd Floor Rm. 216, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
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Available for rent is a two-storey building (semi-concrete), the MMB Sister Remedios Building in Chalan Kanoa #2. Building size is approximately 155 ft. x 42 ft. with stairs, common areas and restrooms. First and second floor (approximately 6,000 square feet each floor) and common exterior areas. Parking lot has 32 stalls including two disability access spaces. Additional area may be available for playground/activity area. Several used split a/c units are in-place from former tenants. Smal water-tank available. 5 separate CUC power meters. Building has network wiring in-place.

Suitable and acceptable uses include office space, church, (business) non-profit organization; school; daycare and early childhood/preschool facility. Not suitable for other purposes such as poker room; bar or other inappropriate businesses. Fenced and gated perimeter. Rear Annex building may be available, depending on proposal for rent/lease of the entire premises (approximately 7,000 square meters).

Minimum Terms: Minimum three (3) year lease (longer term may be available). Tenant is responsible for maintenance and repairs of the building/property. Asking $5,000.00 per month/ negotiable.

To schedule an appointment to meet and discuss, please contact: Law Office of Robert T. Torres, counsel for Mercederian Missionaries of Berriz (MMB) at rttlaw@gmail.com or Whatsapp/Text: 287-7859.

NOTICE: Inspections/ Walk-through by MMB-authorized appointment only.

Change of command ceremony marks new chapter for USCGC *Hickory*

SANTA RITA, Guam—Cmdr. Christopher Jasnoch took command of USCGC *Hickory* (WLB 212) from Cmdr. Linden Dahlkemper in a change of command ceremony held at the Top o'the Mar in Guam on Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023.

Capt. Blake Novak, chief of staff of the U.S. Coast Guard 14th District, presided over the ceremony.

A native of Erie, Pennsylvania, Dahlkemper earned her commission from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 2008. She assumed command of the USCGC Sequoia (WLB 215) in July 2022 and promptly sailed it halfway around the world to the U.S. Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore for its major maintenance availability. The cutter is being swapped out with the USCGC *Hickory*, which will return to Guam in early 2024. Dahlkemper's next posting is at the Office of Cutter Forces.

She previously served as commanding officer of the USCGC *James Rankin* (WLM 555), with earlier afloat tours on USCGC *Aspen* (WLB 208) and USCGC *Walnut* (WLB 205). Before Guam, she served as the maritime programs manager in the Office of Defense Cooperation at the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi, Vietnam; a 2016 White House Fellow on the Presidential Transition Team at the General Services Administration; and an instructor in American government and public policy at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

A native of Chicago, Jasnoch earned his commission from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 2005. He reports to Guam from a short assignment as the Physical Aids to Navigation division chief in the Office of Navigation Systems at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters.

Previous tours afloat include USCGC *Resolute* (WMEC 620), USCGC *Hollyhock* (WLB 214), commanding officer of USCGC *William Tate* (WLM 560), USCGC *Thetis* (WMEC 910), and commanding officer of USCGCs *Walnut* (WLB 205) and *Juniper* (WLB 201) in Hawaii. Previous tours ashore include staff officer at the U.S. Coast Guard 7th District Waterways Management Office in Miami and supervisor of Afloat Training Organization Northwest in Washington.

USCG/

Cmdr. Christopher Jasnoch (left), the new commanding officer of USCGC *Hickory* (WLB 212), stands for a photo with Cmdr. Linden Dahlkemper (right), the former commanding officer, and Capt. Blake Novak (center), the U.S. Coast Guard 14th District chief of staff, following a change of command ceremony held at the Top o'the Mar in Guam on Wednesday, Sep. 13, 2023.

Under Dahlkemper's command, the Sequoia crew operated in a 1.9 million sq. mile area of responsibility. During this time, the *Sequoia*, now *Hickory*, crew accomplished the following:

■ Undertook a 10,644 nautical mile 60-day transit from Guam to Baltimore for the on-time delivery of Sequoia for their $24 million major maintenance availability, the longest transit ever to the U.S. Coast Guard Yard.

■ Overcame seven engineering casualties, combated two cases of flooding, and weathered Hurricane Rosyln, a Category 4 storm.

■ Initiated a cold hit on a go-fast refueling vessel, disrupting transnational drug smuggling operations.

■ While managing the complex transition from Sequoia to *Hickory* as part of MMA, facilitated the crew in supporting 230 temporary duty assignments, contributing to 3,700 person-days to backfill units experiencing member shortages.

■ Despite not having a cutter, conducted all necessary aids to navigation operations, including vital repairs following Typhoon Mawar, a Category 4 storm, in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands—accomplished with a 50% crew turnover, including three gapped command cadre positions.

Major maintenance availability is a scheduled, comprehensive overhaul for U.S. Coast Guard's 225-foot seagoing buoy tenders. The process extends the vessel's lifespan and enhances its capabilities by upgrading systems like propulsion, communication, and navigation. Conducted in dry-dock, MMAs address both routine and specialized maintenance needs, from hull repair to machinery replacement.

Carefully planned years in advance, MMAs are essential for ensuring the cutters remain operationally ready. During these periods, alternate resources are deployed to cover the cutter's duties, minimizing mission disruptions leading to the change out of ships in various locations. Despite their complexity, MMAs are crucial for maintaining fleet readiness and fulfilling the Coast Guard's diverse missions.

The USCGC *Hickory*, a 225-foot seagoing buoy tender based in Apra Harbor, Guam, primarily focuses on maintaining aids to navigation in Guam, the Northern Marianas, and Kwajalein Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Additionally, the crew conducts law enforcement, search and rescue, and humanitarian missions. The ship's moniker will now be the "Bull of the Pacific" with a nod to both its previous life in Alaska as the "Bull of the North" and the beloved carabao of Guam.

By ensuring safe and secure maritime routes, the *Hickory*'s crew contributes significantly to regional stability in the Pacific Rim—a critical corridor for global commerce. Their work aligns with the goals of Pacific partners, reinforcing the U.S. commitment to security and prosperity in the region.

As the 12th vessel in the 16-strong *Juniper*-class fleet, the *Hickory* continues a long-standing U.S. Coast Guard tradition of servicing aids to navigation. The cutter operates under the U.S. Coast Guard 14th District in Honolulu and works closely with U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam. Together, they forge enduring partnerships fostering a more secure and sustainable future for Oceania and beyond. ***(PR)***

Biden-Harris admin invests over $1.9M in Pacific Islands for recycling infrastructure

SAN FRANCISCO, California—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced $1,938,261 from President Biden's Investing in America agenda to expand recycling infrastructure and waste management systems across American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam.

EPA has selected 25 communities nationwide to receive grants totaling more than $73 million under the newly created Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling funding opportunity. In addition, the agency is making available approximately $32 million for states and territories to improve solid waste management planning, data collection and implementation of plans. The grants support the implementation of EPA's National Recycling Strategy to build an economy devoted to keeping materials, products, and services in circulation for as long as possible — what's known as a "circular economy."

"These innovative local government, territory and state grants will solve zero waste challenges across the Pacific Southwest," said EPA Pacific Southwest Regional administrator Martha Guzman. "EPA is proud to support these groundbreaking efforts to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, advance environmental justice and aid the transition to a circular economy that will bring benefits for decades to come."

"The EPA grant funding advances the CNMI's commitment to a cleaner and greener future for our Commonwealth. It also places our islands closer to the shared vision where waste is minimized, resources are conserved, and our pristine natural beauty is preserved for generations to come," said Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. "We are thankful for the collaborative work of the CNMI Inter-Island Solid Waste Management Taskforce and the EPA for making this possible. Together, we're setting a course for a more sustainable CNMI."

"I'd like to recognize the CNMI Inter-Island Solid Waste Management Taskforce for their hard work in securing this crucial funding. Through SWIFR, the CNMI will make critical investments in equipment and personnel to jumpstart recycling initiatives. On behalf of the Governor and Lt. Governor, the CNMI thanks the U.S. EPA for their tireless support of the Commonwealth's commitment to sustainability and achieving Zero Waste", said Elizabeth Balajadia, acting director of the CNMI Office of Planning and Development.

Grants in the Pacific Islands are:

■ American Samoa ($753,755): The American Samoa Power Authority will establish, increase, expand and optimize collection and improve recycling infrastructure for all the islands. A project team will develop solid waste management plans, establish transfer stations to collect recyclables on the islands and at the Futiga Landfill, collect recycling data, and conduct public outreach and education.

■ Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ($612,441): The Commonwealth's Office of Planning and Development will purchase and repair recycling equipment and hire additional operating staff. Balers on Rota and Tinian will process scrap metal and derelict vehicles, a vehicle on Saipan will manage green waste, and equipment on Saipan will support sensitive data destruction and electronics recycling.

■ Guam ($572,065): The Guam Environmental Protection Agency plans to advance zero waste by providing home composting and gardening training to thousands of residents in all of Guam's villages. Compost bins and pails will be provided to participants to reduce wasted food, and garden beds will be created to supply homegrown local produce. Training and data collection will be supported by a nonprofit subrecipient.

President Biden's Investing in America Agenda is growing the American economy from the bottom up and middle-out—from rebuilding our nation's infrastructure, to driving over $470 billion in private sector manufacturing and clean energy investments in the United States, to creating a manufacturing and innovation boom powered by good paying jobs that don't require a four-year degree, to building a clean-energy economy that will combat climate change and make our communities more resilient.

EPA's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program is also advancing President's Justice40 Initiative, which aims to ensure that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. Approximately $56 million out of the $73 million—or 76%—of the total funding for communities will go toward projects that benefit disadvantaged communities.

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Communities

The recycling grants for communities will support improvements to waste management systems across the country and will range from $500,000 to $4 million per grant. Selected projects include purchasing new fleets of recycling collection vehicles and bins to provide curbside recycling services for communities currently lacking access; upgrades to material recovery facilities to reduce contamination; enhancements to composting and organics programs and infrastructure, and construction of various types of facilities that improve recycling, composting, and reuse infrastructure for materials such as plastics and food waste.

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for States and Territories

The recycling grants for states and territories will provide funding to all 56 states, territories, and the District of Columbia via grants ranging from $360,000 to $750,000; with the highest

See RECYCLING on Page 7

LG Electronics partners with MVA

LG Electronics has partnered with the Marianas Visitors Authority to promote the LG Healing Me Saipan massage chair named after the capital island of The Marianas.

In its first-ever collaboration with a state tourism office, LG recently teamed up with the MVA on an "Saipan Healing Trip" promotion, offering consumers a chance to win a newly launched LG Healing Me Saipan massage chair or a complimentary flight ticket to Saipan. Multiple winners of the promotional event were awarded last month.

"The 'Saipan Healing Trip' promotion conveyed both the relaxation provided by the LG Healing Me Saipan massage chair and the healing experience of being in Saipan," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "It's exciting to have LG, an international renowned corporation, recognize and incorporate The Marianas into their product line. And 100%, the chair really does make you feel like all your troubles have slipped away and you are relaxing in our beautiful Marianas paradise."

Contestants were invited to submit a story about their need for a healing experience, including the keywords "LG Healing Me Saipan" and "Travel Destination Saipan." The first place winner received a LG Healing Me Saipan. Individuals who purchased a chair during the promotion period received a chance to win a complimentary flight ticket to The Marianas, and five winners were awarded last month. LG also provided Baskin Robbins gift coupons to all the contestants. Among all those who shared the event page with 3 or more people on KakaoTalk, 200 random winners received a Starbucks Café Americano Tall coupon.

LG Electronics announced the consumer event on its main website LGE.COM and received nearly 100,000 entries in about a month. Also, the Healing Me Saipan massage chair was advertised eight times on CJ on Style, SK Store, Home & Shopping, a TV home shopping and mobile live shows such as Timon Live and G-Market Live of major travel agencies that sell travel products of Saipan. LG also provided two chairs for promotional use at last month's MVA Seoul-Busan Roadshow. ***(PR)***

MVA

The "Saipan Healing Trip" co-op promotion of LG Electronics and the Marianas Visitors Authority in Summer 2023 promotes both the newly launched LG Healing Me Saipan Massage Chair and The Marianas travel destination as sources of relaxation.

MVA

The LG Healing Me Saipan Massage Chair is featured at the booth of the Marianas Visitors Authority during the MVA Seoul-Busan Roadshow in August 2023 in South Korea. LG Electronics and the MVA also collaborated on the "Saipan Healing Trip" consumer event in Summer 2023 to promote both the product and The Marianas travel destination.

RECYCLING

From page 6

grant amounts supporting those states and territories that need it the most. These grants represent important steps toward achieving the EPA's National Recycling Goal and Food Loss and Waste Reduction Goal. Funded activities include improving post-consumer materials management programs through developing or updating solid waste management plans and strengthening data collection efforts.

Additional background

The announcement for states, territories, and communities is the first round of funding from this new grant program. In the coming months, EPA will announce the selected recipients of the recycling grants for Tribes and intertribal consortia, as well as the recipients of EPA's new Recycling Education and Outreach grant program.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides $275 million total from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2026 for grants authorized under the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act—the largest investment in recycling in 30 years. The recycling grants are supplemented with additional funding provided through EPA's annual appropriations. EPA has selected these entities to receive funding for recycling infrastructure projects and anticipates making all the awards announced today once all legal and administrative requirements are satisfied.

For details about the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program selectees and other Bipartisan Infrastructure Law-related funding opportunities, visit the EPA recycling grants webpage.

Learn more about EPA's Pacific Southwest Region. Connect with us on Facebook and on X. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL AND
STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 95950
TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 • FAX: (670) 322-6548 • E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the State Rehabilitation Council and Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2023 Joint General Membership Meeting on **Thursday, September 21, 2023, at the World Resort – Sunflower Room at 10:00 AM**
Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Appointment of Presiding Officer for Joint Meeting ("Today")
IV. Review and Adoption of Agenda
V. Review and Adoption of General Membership Meeting Minutes
  a. SRC FY 2023 Third General Membership Meeting. (June 29, 2023)
  b. SILC FY 2023 Third General Membership Meeting. (June 28, 2023)
VI. Reports
  a. SRC Chairperson
  b. SILC Chairperson
  c. CLI Director
  d. OVR Director
VII. Old Business
  a. Orientation and Training
  b. Membership Vacancies
VIII. New Business
  a. National Disability Employment Awareness Month
  b. Acceptance Campaign
  c. FY 2023 Joint Annual Report
IX. Action Items
  a. Ratify Executive Committee Motion for Member Nomination
  b. Review and Adoption of FY 2024 SRC Resource Plan
  c. Review and Adoption of FY 2024 SILC Resource Plan
  d. Removal of Member(s)
  e. Election of Officers for SRC
X. Miscellaneous
XI. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters are asked to call Ann Marie Marciano at (670) 322-6537 (voice) or email at annmarie@ovrgov.net for necessary arrangements no later than Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 11:30 am.

/s/ **Preston O. Basa**
SRC Chairperson

/s/ **Nicolas DLC. Torres**
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
MVA-RFP-23-2304

Marianas Visitors Authority Representation, Promotional and Public Relations Services for the JAPAN MARKET

Submission /Closing Date: **October 10, 2023 Time: 3:00 PM ChST**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the RFP package on or after September 11, 2023 at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. The RFP package can be emailed to anyone interested. The request via email must reference **"MVA-RFP-23-2304 MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY REPRESENTATION, PROMOTIONAL, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICES FOR THE JAPAN MARKET."**

Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier mail service on or before October 10, 2023, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the CNMI must notify the MVA Acting Procurement Officer Ms. Carol Chargualaf in writing of their intent to submit in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. This notice of intent may be submitted by any mode of written communication including facsimile to +1-670-664-3237 or emailed to cchargualaf@mymarianas.com and must be received no later than 3:00 PM., Chamorro Standard Time on September 29, 2023.

/s/ Gloria Cavanagh
Acting Chairperson,
MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director, MVA

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
"ADDENDUM"
"CORRECTION ON THE LAST DATE TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES"

RFP23-CHCC/CAS-019A

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES: SEPTEMBER 18th, 2023
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF RFP: SEPTEMBER 29th, 2023 TIME: 10:00 AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF MOBILE OPEN MRI"

(Outright Purchase, Shipping, Delivery, Installation, Training and Commissioning for CHC Hospital/Radiology Department)

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Kevin McCarthy's pursuit of Joe Biden comes with lots of noise, so far precious little evidence

On its face, the impeachment probe announced Tuesday by House Speaker Kevin McCarthy is a waste of time.

Republicans have admitted they have no actual proof of actual wrongdoing by President Joe Biden.

Nor do they even know for certain that their accusations are based on legitimate information, not just something they pulled from someone's partisan internet blog.

Nor do most of them seem to really care. The theatrics are the point, all of it encouraged from the wings by former President Donald Trump, whose legal woes are backed up by more hard evidence than Mar-a-Lago has storage boxes.

But in the Biden matter, so far, the investigation looks less like fact-finding than performative vengeance.

In an announcement after which McCarthy took no questions, he called the impeachment inquiry the "logical next step" for Republican claims—did we mention they are unproven?—that President Joe Biden somehow was enriched by his son Hunter's international business ventures when the elder Biden was vice president.

Yet McCarthy's tone of triumph seemed to be less a product of consequential evidence than of politics by other means, a description that sadly has become more common since President Bill Clinton's impeachment without conviction in the late 1990s.

This time, the House is led by McCarthy, a California Republican, who famously harvested enough votes to win the speaker's gavel by agreeing to a House rule change that enables any House member to call for a vote to remove him from the speaker's position.

McCarthy also faces high pressure from far-right, pro-Trump members of his conference ahead of a coming GOP showdown between Republicans over spending and other questions, including whether he could survive as speaker if he fails to impeach Biden after the double impeachment of his predecessor, Trump.

As a result, when any House Republican speaks, nutty extremist or not, McCarthy listens. Very politely.

Yet, the skepticism you read here is not to say that legitimate suspicions about a president's personal or family interests should not be investigated for conflicts with the public's interests. Especially at these levels of government.

Even a Democrat as loyal to the Bidens as Illinois' senior Sen. Dick Durbin tellingly told CNN Tuesday that, despite the lack of evidence to back impeachment—and despite his sense that the inquiry was a symptom of an "out of control" Republican House majority—he, too, felt as "uncomfortable" with the impression that Hunter Biden capitalized on his father's position, as he did about similar allegations about Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, in the previous administration.

Besides, even if nothing comes of the inquiry, the national

See KEVIN on Page 9

Rescuing the SDGs: The urgent need for renewed commitment to the 2030 agenda for sustainable development

By JAAP VAN HIERDEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaap Van Hierden is the resident coordinator for United Nations in Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Nauru, Kiribati. As the designated representative of the UN secretary-general in Micronesia, the UN resident coordinator guides UN's engagement in development, humanitarian and peacebuilding activities in five Micronesian countries.

The author is the Resident Coordinator for United Nations in Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Kiribati. As the designated representative of the UN Secretary-General in Micronesia, the UN Resident Coordinator guides UN's engagement in development, humanitarian and peacebuilding activities in five Micronesian countries.

This week's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Summit in New York holds a great significance as a moment for global commitment to rescuing both the planet and its people. The summit brings together the world Leaders to share insights and actions to address the challenges hindering the achievement of the SDGs and targets underlined by the 2030 Agenda.

The commitment to the SDGs and the 2030 agenda remains the cornerstone of the United Nations' development agenda globally. However, as we approach the midway point, there has been a significant decline in development progress. This decline, triggered by the combined impacts of climate disasters, conflict, and the COVID-19 pandemic, threatens the achievement of the SDGs. The Pacific region, including Micronesia, is not immune to these challenges. With a high prevalence of environmental events, the Pacific is among the most vulnerable regions globally. Approximately one in four Pacific Islanders are urban residents who face increased exposure and risks due to economic and climatic shocks. Countries like Kiribati and Marshall Islands, with minimal elevation above sea level, are particularly at risk from rising sea levels, potentially leading to mass displacement and storm surge impacts.

During past few years, the Pacific Island Countries and Territories have made commendable efforts by incorporating the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their national policies and strategies. This demonstrates a shared commitment to the global vision of a more equitable and sustainable world. However, despite these commendable intentions, the road to achieving the SDGs has proven to be far more challenging than anticipated due to the challenges I mentioned above.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have further complicated our journey towards the SDGs. This unprecedented crisis has disrupted economies, strained healthcare systems, and deepened inequalities. Despite the best efforts of Pacific Island Countries and Territories, none of the 21 targets expected to be achieved by 2020 were met. On our current trajectory, it is unlikely that the Pacific will achieve 20% of the SDG targets by 2030. This is a concerning prospect, and it underscores the need for immediate action by the governments, the United Nations and its development partners.

Realizing these challenges, the United Nations is enhancing its presence in Micronesia to offer stronger support to the governments and people of the region. The new UN Pacific Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023-2027) was recently signed, and Country Implementation Plans (CIPs) have been agreed upon in close collaboration with the governments and development partners of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Kiribati. In our shared ambition, we intend to reach the most remote communities on the most remote islands, leaving no one and no place behind. In doing so, we recognize that Micronesians should not be vulnerable as they are stewards of a large part of our planet that includes unique biodiversity and bountiful natural resources.

The Global SDG Summit serves as a crucial reminder of the challenges still ahead and an opportunity to turn things around. It calls for collective efforts to strengthen partnerships, commit to a renewed vision for the future, and expand access to quality healthcare and education services while ensuring decent livelihoods for all. The United Nations is working closely with the governments and people of Micronesia to accelerate their development, leaving no one behind. This collaboration involves development partners and key stakeholders, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and cooperation.

The declining progress toward the SDGs demands bold actions and immediate global commitment. The United Nations, in collaboration with governments, development partners, and stakeholders, plays a crucial role in accelerating development while leaving no one behind. The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has outlined three critical deliverables for the summit that could set us on a path to success:

We must begin by strengthening our commitment to developing countries striving to implement the SDGs. This requires an ambitious and action-oriented political declaration, backed by the delivery of the SDG Stimulus plan.

World leaders must step forward and make future-oriented national commitments to drive transformation within their own borders. These commitments should serve as beacons of hope, inspiring citizens and governments alike to prioritize sustainability and equity.

To succeed, we need a global movement that transcends borders and engages all segments of society. This can be achieved by mobilizing commitments to action around a small number of high-impact initiatives. Civil society, the private sector, local and regional governments, and major groups must be activated at all levels. By involving diverse stakeholders, we can harness the power of collective action and innovation.

As we approach the SDG Summit, it is imperative that leaders and decision-makers come together to renew their commitment, rescue the 2030 targets, and create a sustainable and equitable future for all.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Here's what both sides of the US-Mexico border fight keep forgetting

By MEHNAAZ MOMEN
Los Angeles Times

Mehnaaz Momen is the author of the forthcoming book "Listening to Laredo: A Border City in a Globalized Age."

"Laredo is like the goose that lays the golden eggs," says Alec Martinez, a local resident who has worked in city government. "Everyone is interested in the eggs, but no one cares about the goose."

This border city has become the largest inland port in the nation. At the same time, much of Laredo's historic downtown with its eclectic architecture, once a bustling business center, stands forlorn with inadequate residential housing and scattered shops. The flow of money has shifted from the city itself to the four international bridges tying the local economy to the crumbs of international trade. Homegrown economic growth helped bring prosperity to the city in the 1960s and '70s. The 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement, however, transformed the beautiful downtown and the mighty Rio Grande into a mere passage for money, merchandise and narcotics.

As media coverage of the southern border focuses on the growing number of asylum seekers, the associated humanitarian debacle and the partisan politics surrounding migration policy, longtime border residents get left out of the narrative. "Decisions made in Washington, D.C., dictate our lives," says Sandra Taylor, a local pub owner. "They don't understand the border; they don't talk to us."

Vicky Garcia moved to Laredo from Chicago and chose to buy a house built in 1890 in the historic downtown. "The architecture here—the French style, the little white homes, the ornate ones—tells the history of colonial days, the Civil War, buffalo soldiers," she tells me. Now she regularly wakes up to gunshots heard across the river, the sound of buzzing helicopters and her view of the riverbank obstructed by the migrant processing center that was built in 2019. The city's customary activities of fishing, boating and birding have largely evaporated as dust from Border Patrol cars clouds the air and surveillance boats produce mechanical noise.

Moreover, people are concerned about the safety of their drinking water as the Border Patrol implements new security projects that pollute the river. The Rio Grande International Study Center, an environmental nonprofit in Laredo, regularly monitors the water. Tricia Cortez, the organization's executive director, laments: "Unless and until the slow contamination of the river reaches Flint crisis levels, no media coverage of the border will include the hazards to safe water as a byproduct of border security."

But in recent years, on top of seeing some redevelopment, Laredo has been at the forefront of a trend in the region: locals pushing back against authorities to retake control of land and resources.

In 2020, residents of Webb County (which contains Laredo) and Zapata County filed lawsuits against the Trump administration to protect land from being confiscated by the federal government for border wall construction. Had the wall been built as planned, Elsa Hull's three-acre homestead in San Ygnacio, just south of Laredo, would have been sandwiched between the wall and the Rio Grande. Hull joined as a plaintiff onto another lawsuit, brought by Earthjustice in 2019, to oppose the wall. "I had no other choice," she tells me. "I was going to lose my house, my livelihood as a rancher, my whole life. I was going to be trapped in no-man's land with my daughters and animals."

And this August, the Eagle Pass City Council voted unanimously to rescind permission for the Texas Department of Public Safety to use Shelby Park to arrest migrants on criminal trespassing charges.

Militarized border policies face other setbacks: The Biden administration canceled the border wall contracts in 2021, and last week a judge ordered Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to remove the buoy wall he constructed on the Rio Grande to block migrants. But the militarization has already wreaked havoc: In Eagle Pass, government-installed razor wire has injured migrants while tearing up a family's pecan farm, and residents say buoy construction has unsettled pollination cycles.

These clashes reveal a gaping distance between official and local narratives of the border's fundamental meaning. How can sustainable policy be implemented under these conditions?

While state and national policies aim to keep Texas and Mexico separate, local initiatives are trying to unite the two sides of the river. Even as the governor pursues a physical barrier—Abbott almost immediately appealed the buoy order, prompting a stay—Laredoans are excitedly awaiting the construction of the River Vega project, a binational park planned to run along the much-maligned Rio Grande for residents of Laredo as well as Nuevo Laredo across the border. This project has grown out of a community-driven master plan, Viva Laredo, focused on reanimating the historic downtown and enhancing quality-of-life features for residents.

Frank Rotnofsky, one of the architects involved with the project, envisions this park as being akin to San Antonio's popular River Walk, with the broader goal of regenerating the Rio Grande and creating more recreation spaces in the downtown area. As Rotnofsky says: "River Vega is going to connect the edges of two countries, the two riverbanks, in the most sustainable way, both with regard to the environment and human relations."

Border people remain the missing element in so much state and national policy. "Border cities are being treated like empty spaces where anything can be constructed anywhere. We are a living community. This is the land of our ancestors. Why are we not part of these life-altering decisions?" asks Ricardo de Anda, a lawyer who fears the construction of a border wall that would diminish his access to land that has belonged to his family since Laredo was part of Mexico.

From a democratic and pragmatic standpoint, no border policy can work unless it incorporates local interests and allegiances. Disagreement over particular strategies will arise, but without dialogue and local participation, the border will continue to be mistreated as an abstraction—a wedge issue between political foes—instead of the hub of communities it really is.

KEVIN

From page 8

conversation about it could damage the public's confidence in Biden, who already has to convince voters that his age would not be an impediment to his serving out a second term in one of the world's most demanding jobs. Polls show increasing voter concern about the president's role in his son's affairs, whatever they might have been.

So far, information that has worked its way out of GOP-led House committees suggests, at minimum, a strong perception of a conflict of interest on Hunter Biden's part in various ventures, including in China and Ukraine, while his father was dealing with those countries as vice president. Clearly, the younger Biden was not shy about using his last name to his advantage. Nor was he shy about cashing in from a father's open affection for his son.

But despite releasing bank records connected to the younger Biden that show a series of lucrative payments, GOP House committees have so far failed to produce evidence that links those payments made to the president's son to ways that might also have personally benefited his father, beyond his understandable satisfaction that his struggling son was getting his act together.

Nor has evidence emerged that Joe Biden abused his power in a way that would fit the constitutional standard for impeachment of treason, bribery and high crimes and misdemeanors. Impeachments are supposed to be shocking occasions, and that was true for most of the history of this nation. They are supposed to be entered into only in dire matters of national interest. They have been cheapened by over-use.

Some Republican leaders of the House Oversight Committee see corruption in dinners that Joe Biden attended with his son and his associates in 2014 and 2015 and a visit he made to Ukraine, shortly after Hunter Biden styled himself as a consultant-fixer and started earning $1 million a year from the Ukrainian energy firm Burisma.

Yet those details, as we now know them, hardly come up to the standard for circumstantial evidence that shows the president needed to be impeached.

We await the immediate release by Republicans of evidence of more direct and personally beneficial involvement by Joe Biden in his son's affairs, should such evidence actually exist. McCarthy's move demands no less, lest it merely be yet another indicator of the moral decay within a once-proud GOP.

It is instructive to remember McCarthy's claim of the moral high ground before the House voted to impeach Trump in December 2019. He complained that the move, led by then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi, was not supported by—Guess what?—evidence.

"Will we let impeachment become an exercise of raw political power, regardless if it damages our country?" McCarthy asked. "Or will we protect the proper grounds and process for impeachment now and in the future?"

McCarthy complained then that Democrats wanted to undo the results of the previous election in order "to influence the next one."

If McCarthy's speech at that time explains any of his tactics today, he can thank his rivals.

Just, please, don't waste our time with this unless you have the goods.

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Mayor's office must reconvey designations of CK, Koblerville public lands first

By TERESITA A. SANTOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Teresita A. Santos is the secretary of the Department of Public Lands

For the record, the Saipan Mayor's Office has an existing designation for public lands in Chalan Kanoa, in particular Lot No 012H 57, containing an area of about 6,000 square meters for the construction of a permanent office for the SMO and the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council.

In addition, the SMO has another designation of public lands located in Koblerville, containing an area of about 25,000 square meters, primarily to use as a staging area as a designated place to set up heavy equipment vehicles, supplies, and equipment for convenient use and to provide a safe and designated area to train employees to operate these specialized equipment's.

The SMO has elected not to utilize these public lands designations and has selected other parcels of public lands, in particular, in As Perdido, containing an area of about 110,000 square meters, for the SMO office space, staging of heavy equipment, drivers training, and etc.

Thus, in response, DPL has officially responded and notified the SMO that prior to the designation of any subsequent public lands for the same purpose, the SMO must reconvey the designations of the Chalan Kanoa and Koblerville public lands, submit a schematic design and survey map of the public lands to be designated as these are prerequisites to any public land designations.

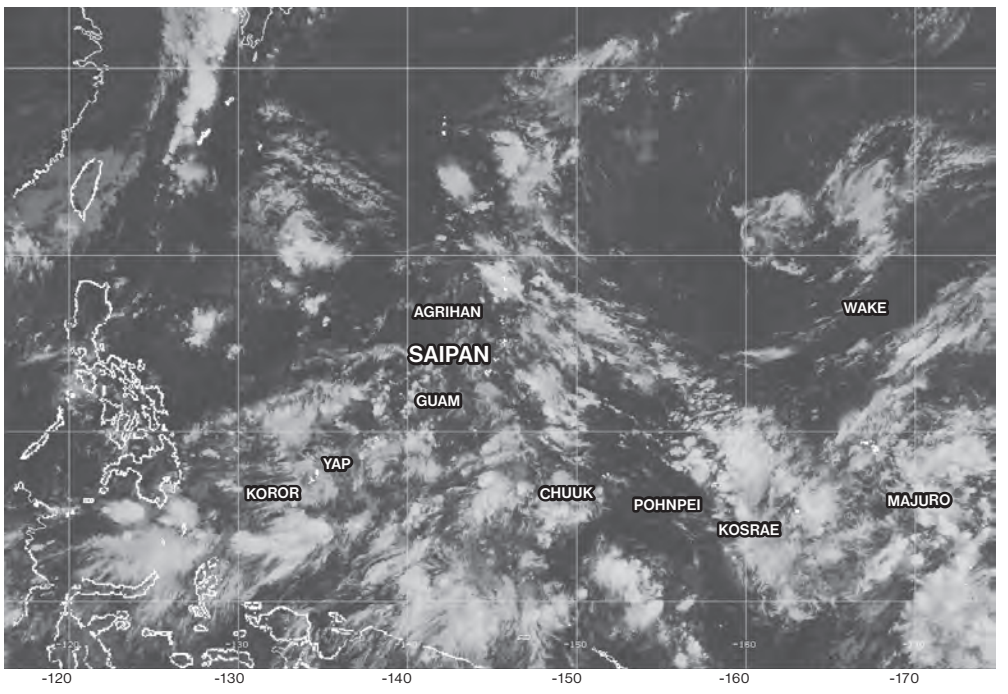
Absent these documents, DPL cannot designate the public lands the SMO is requesting for. Furthermore, by submitting a schematic plan, DPL would be able to determine the amounts of public lands necessary to accommodate the SMO request. DPL is mindful of the fact that there is scarcity of public lands available on Saipan. When public lands are designated, the inventory of public lands significantly reduces thus will impact the amounts of public lands remaining for DPL to meet the rising demand for land exchanges, agricultural and grazing permits, homestead developments, and economic development.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms	Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers.	Partly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers.
87° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°	88° 79°	88° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:32 AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers were over the Marianas this morning. A series of surface trough passing over the area will generate periods of showers and thunderstorms are expected through the coming week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	64° / 55°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 63°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Windy	73° / 63°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	80° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 41°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
New York	Thunderstorms	80° / 68°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	82° / 70°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	84° / 59°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 70°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	81° / 64°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	93° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 51°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 64°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	77° / 64°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	79° / 68°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:16 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:16 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:15 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:13 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:21 AM	8:14 PM	-
Tuesday	9:11 AM	8:53 PM	-
Wednesday	10:04 AM	9:36 PM	-
Thursday	11:01 AM	10:25 PM	-
Friday	2:00 PM	11:20 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
3:27 AM	Low Tide	0.46
9:27 AM	High Tide	1.80
3:35 PM	Low Tide	0.74
9:17 PM	High Tide	1.83

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1 up to Sep 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR 111	7:05AM	9:05AM	7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily up to Sep 4
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily from Sep 5

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1 up to Sep 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR110	11:40PM	5:35AM+1	6
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Auto workers' union calls talks with Ford productive

NEW YORK (AP)—The United Auto Workers said Saturday it had "reasonably productive conversations" with Ford, as its limited strike against the Big 3 automakers carried into a second day.

The union is trying to reach a deal with not only Ford but also General Motors and Stellantis for better pay in an era of big profits for the industry, which is trying to transition from gasoline-powered engines to electric vehicles.

Stellantis on Saturday also gave details about its most recent offer to the union, which brought its wage proposal roughly in line with its competitors. The owner of Chrysler said its offer would provide cumulative raises of nearly 21% for hourly wages, with an immediate 10% increase if a contract is ratified.

That, though, is still below the 36% increase over four years the UAW is seeking, along with other demands that would increase costs for auto companies.

Mark Stewart, chief operating officer for North America at Stellantis, on Saturday called it part of a "really competitive" overall proposal, as it tries to compete with non-union automakers outside the Big 3 that have lower costs.

Stewart also described a possible solution related to a plant in Belvidere, Illinois, that has already been idled, which is a big issue for the union. But that offer left the table after the deadline to avert a strike passed. Stewart declined to discuss details about the proposal.

"That's how they see these workers. A bargaining chip," UAW President Shawn Fain said in a statement. "Belvidere Assembly was a profitable plant that just a few years ago supported around 5,000 workers and their families. Now that number is zero, and Stellantis wants to keep playing games."

Nearly 1 in 10 of America's unionized auto workers went on strike Friday. The strikes are limited for now to three assembly plants: a GM factory in Wentzville, Missouri, a Ford plant in Wayne, Michigan, near Detroit, and a Jeep plant run by Stellantis in Toledo, Ohio.

Automakers have since told some non-striking workers not to report to work, including 600 who were told not to report Friday to a Ford plant.

Politicians have been pushing automakers to consider workers who gave up pay and benefits to help their employers during the Great Recession.

"Now that our carmakers are enjoying robust profits, it's time to do right by those same workers so the industry can emerge more united and competitive than ever," former President Barack Obama said in a statement Saturday.

Biden rules on clean cars face crucial test as GOP-led challenges go to appeals court

WASHINGTON (AP)—Efforts by the Biden administration to limit pollution from automobile tailpipes—a major source of planet-warming emissions—face a crucial test as legal challenges brought by Republican-led states head to a federal appeals court.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit will hear arguments Thursday and Friday on three cases challenging Biden administration rules targeting cars and trucks. Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming, and the legal cases could go all the way to the Supreme Court.

Republican attorneys general say the legal challenges are needed to curtail government overreach, while environmental groups and the Biden administration say an adverse ruling could jeopardize protections against deadly pollution that contributes to climate change.

The cases before the appeals court will test a 2021 Environmental Protection Agency rule that strengthened tailpipe pollution limits and a 2022 EPA decision that restored California's authority to set its own tailpipe pollution standards for cars and SUVs. At least 15 states and the District of Columbia have signed on to California's vehicle standards, which are stricter than federal rules and are designed to address the state's severe air pollution problems. Seven of the 10 U.S. cities with the worst ozone pollution are in California.

A third case challenges mileage standards set by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is leading a coalition of GOP-leaning states and oil industry groups that are challenging the tailpipe rule.

"At a time when American gas prices are skyrocketing at the pump, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict shows again the absolute need for energy independence, (President Joe) Biden chooses to go to war against fossil fuels," said Paxton, who faces an impeachment trial in the Texas Senate on unrelated charges of corruption and bribery.

He said the rules will disadvantage Texas and other oil and gas producing states.

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, who is leading a separate case challenging the California standards, said the waiver was a delegation of federal authority to a state—and an improper one at that.

But Peter Zalzal, a senior attorney for the Environmental Defense Fund, an advocacy group that is involved in two of the legal cases, said the rules were "lawful, constitutional and vital."

The Natural Resources Defense Council, another environmental group, called the lawsuits "an unprecedented attack" on federal clean-air standards by the oil industry and Republican-led states.

"The fossil fuel industry and its allies want to kneecap the EPA and NHTSA so that the next round of clean car standards cannot achieve the carbon pollution reductions needed to address the climate crisis," NRDC lawyer Pete Huffman wrote in a memo this week.

A spokesman for the EPA declined to comment, citing ongoing litigation.

But Todd Kim, assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division, said in a legal filing that the EPA acted well within its authority to regulate tailpipe pollution.

The court cases come as the Biden administration pushes the auto industry to quickly adopt electric vehicles as part of its climate agenda. The 2021 infrastructure law and 2022 climate law include billions in incentives for purchase of new and used EVs and a national network of new charging stations. Fully electric vehicles represent just 6.7% of new vehicle sales in the U.S., but analysts expect that to rise rapidly in coming years. Major automakers, including General Motors and Ford, have pledged full commitment to EVs, and GM has said it will end sale of new gasoline-fueled passenger vehicles by 2035.

Nation

IN ATLANTIC STORM LEE'S WAKE

Thousands without power, 1 dead

BAR HARBOR, Maine (AP)—Atlantic storm Lee pummeled a large swath of New England and Maritime Canada with destructive winds, rough surf and torrential rains that toppled trees, flooded roadways and cut power to tens of thousands on Saturday. One person was killed in Maine when a tree limb fell on his vehicle.

The center of the sprawling post-tropical cyclone made landfall about 135 miles (215 kilometers) west of Halifax, the capital of Nova Scotia, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Center. That's about 50 miles (80 kilometers) southeast of Eastport, Maine. It had near-hurricane-strength winds of 70 mph (110 kph), though the storm was weakening as it headed north to New Brunswick and the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Lee flooded coastal roads in Nova Scotia and took ferries out of service as it fanned anxiety in a region still reeling from wildfires and severe flooding this summer. The province's largest airport, Halifax Stanfield International, cancelled all flights.

"People are exhausted. ... It's so much in such a small time period," said Pam Lovelace, a councilor in Halifax.

The storm was so big that it caused power outages several hundred miles from its center. At midday Saturday, 11% of electricity customers in Maine lacked power, along with 27% of Nova Scotia, 8% of New Brunswick and 3% of Prince Edward Island.

Hurricane-force winds extended as far as 140 miles (220 kilometers) from Lee's center, with tropical storm-force winds extending as far as 320 miles (515 kilometers) — enough to cover all of Maine and much of Maritime Canada.

In the United States, a tropical storm warning remained in effect from Stonington, Maine, north to the U.S.-Canada border.

That included Bar Harbor, the touristy gateway to Acadia National Park, where a whale watch vessel broke free of its mooring and crashed ashore. Authorities worked to offload 1,800 gallons of diesel fuel to prevent it from spilling into the ocean.

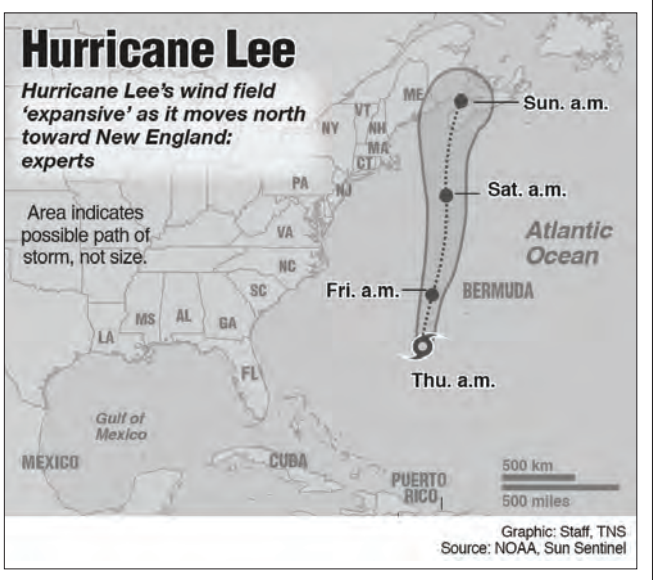
A 51-year-old motorist in Searsport, Maine, died after a large tree limb fell on his vehicle Saturday on U.S. Highway 1 during a period of high winds, the first fatality attributed to the storm.

The tree limb brought down live power lines, and utility workers had to cut power before the man could be removed, said Police Chief Brian Lunt. The unidentified man died later at a hospital, Lunt said.

Storm surge of up to 3 feet (0.91 meters) was expected along coastal areas, accompanied by large and destructive waves, the hurricane center said.

The storm skirted some of the most waterlogged areas of Massachusetts that experienced severe flash flooding days earlier, when fast water washed out roads, caused sinkholes, damaged homes and flooded vehicles.

In eastern Maine, winds died down enough by late afternoon for utility workers to begin using their bucket trucks to make repairs. Both Central Maine Power and Versant Power had hundreds of workers, including out-of-state crews, to assist in the effort.



Trump's GOP rivals try to attract social conservatives in Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Hoping to cut into Donald Trump's support at a major Iowa gathering of evangelical Christians, several of his top rivals on Saturday mostly avoided direct criticism of him on abortion and other issues key to social conservatives.

The Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition's annual banquet is traditionally a marquee event on the Republican primary calendar. But the former president skipped it, leaving a mostly muted crowd of more than 1,000 pastors and activists to instead hear from several candidates running far behind Trump.

The primary field's split on abortion was once again on display, with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis saying restrictions on the procedure should be left to the stages — a position similar to Trump's — while former Vice President Mike Pence referred to Trump as his "former running mate" and said he was wrong to oppose a national abortion ban.

While the audience was overwhelmingly anti-abortion, Pence's push for a 15-week ban got only tepid applause, reflecting some national Republicans' concerns that Democrats are winning on abortion rights issues after last year's Supreme Court ruling overturning the Roe v. Wade decision.

DeSantis, who has struggled to solidify himself as the GOP primary's No. 2 behind Trump, declined to say he'd back a federal abortion ban. Instead, he said, states have done more on the issue.

"Congress has really struggled to make an impact over the years," DeSantis said.

That's similar to Trump, who recently has refused to back a federal ban, arguing that the issue should be left up to the states. The former president also has also previously cautioned top Republicans from championing abortion positions that are outside the political mainstream.

Pence said he disagreed with Trump and argued all Republican presidential candidates should back a federal abortion ban at a minimum of 15 weeks of pregnancy.

"I believe it's an idea whose time has come," Pence said. "We need to stand for the unborn all across America."

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Kim discussed arms cooperation with Russian defense minister

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un held discussions with Russia's defense minister on strengthening "strategic and tactical coordination" between the countries' militaries, the North's state media said Sunday, as Kim continued a visit to Russia's Far East that has raised concerns about an arms alliance that would fuel Moscow's war on Ukraine. The talks with Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu came after Kim on Friday was shown some of Russia's most advanced weapons systems deployed for its war on Ukraine, including nuclear-capable bombers and hypersonic missiles, and a key warship of its Pacific fleet, the Korean Central News Agency said. Kim's trip, highlighted by a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, has underscored how their interests are aligning in the face of separate, intensifying confrontations with the West. U.S. and South Korean officials have said North Korea could provide badly needed munitions for Putin's war on Ukraine in exchange for sophisticated Russian weapons technology that would advance Kim's nuclear ambitions. While his predominant focus is on military cooperation, Kim also appears to be using his trip to encourage broader exchanges between the countries as he tries to break out of diplomatic isolation.

Father, stepmother, uncle of dead girl appear in UK court on murder charge after Pakistan arrests

LONDON (AP)—The father, stepmother and uncle of a 10-year-old girl found dead in her U.K. home appeared in court on murder charges Friday after being arrested and deported from Pakistan after an extensive police search. Sara Sharif was found dead with extensive injuries at her home in Woking, 20 miles (32 kilometers) southwest of London, on Aug. 10. Sara's father, Urfan Sharif, 41; his partner Beinash Batool, 29; and his 28-year-old brother, Faisal Malik are charged with murder and causing or allowing the death of a child. They appeared for a brief hearing at Guildford Magistrates' Court near Woking, speaking only to confirm their names, dates of birth and addresses. They were not asked to enter pleas, but their lawyers said they deny the charges. They were ordered detained until their next court hearing on Tuesday. The three suspects had traveled to Islamabad, the Pakistani capital along with five children, a day before police discovered the girl's body. Prosecutor Amanda Burrows told the court that police went to the family home in Woking after receiving a call from Pakistan on Aug. 10. Officers found the 10-year-old dead in a bed under a blanket. An autopsy did not establish a cause of death, but the prosecutor said it showed Sara had healed fractures and other injuries indicating "multiple events of violence."

Afghan NGO says it's working with the UN for quick release of 18 staff detained by Taliban

ISLAMABAD (AP)—An Afghanistan-based nonprofit said Saturday it is working with the United Nations and others for the swift release of 18 staffers, including a foreigner, detained by the Taliban. The International Assistance Mission said the 18 people were detained on two separate occasions this month from its office in central Ghor province and taken to the capital, Kabul. Local media reported that a U.S. national is among those detained and that staff members were detained for preaching about Christianity. The nonprofit said it still has no information about the nature of the allegations. "IAM has written to the Ministry of Economy, where we are legally registered as an international NGO, about these extremely concerning developments," the nonprofit said. "We are also working with the U.N. and ACBAR, the coordinating body for NGOs in Afghanistan, to deepen our understanding of the situation and to work for the quick release of our 18 colleagues." The mission said it values and respects Afghanistan's customs and cultures, standing by the principle that aid will not be used to further a "particular political or religious" point of view. It said all its staff agree to abide by the country's laws.

Hundreds protest vs. Malaysian government after deputy premier's graft charges were dropped

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Hundreds of people staged an anti-government rally Saturday in the Malaysian capital, accusing Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim of helping his key ally escape prosecution in exchange for political support. Prosecutors unexpectedly dropped 47 corruption charges against Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi on Sept. 4, late in the process of his trail. The court approved the application for dismissal but refused to grant Zahid a full acquittal, which means he can be recharged. Speakers addressing the crowd Saturday in Kuala Lumpur accused Anwar's government of interfering with the case to let Zahid off the hook in return for political support. Some protesters in the opposition-backed rally wore white shirts emblazoned with the words "Fight Corruption." They marched in the city center chanting, "Charge Zahid," "Reform is dead" and "Down with Anwar." Protester Muhamed Yahya said there was a "hidden hand at work" that led to the charges against Zahid being dropped. "They used the back door," he said. Prosecutors said Zahid's case was temporarily halted because further investigation was needed. Anwar has said it was former Attorney General Idrus Harun's decision just before he retired and denied interfering in the case. The dropped charges have led to renewed calls for reforms that would separate the attorney general's roles as the government's legal adviser and its public prosecutor.

Laos deports human rights lawyer who was fleeing state pressure back to China

BEIJING (AP)—A human rights lawyer who was arrested in neighboring Laos has been deported back to China, his attorney said, despite pleas from rights groups and United Nations experts for his release. Lu Siwei was stripped of his legal license for taking on sensitive cases and was fleeing China when he was arrested in the Southeast Asian country earlier in the summer. According to Lithnarong Pholsena, Lu's attorney, officials at the prison where Lu was held said Thursday that Chinese police took Lu and two busloads of other Chinese citizens detained in Laos back to China earlier this week. Bob Fu, a Texas-based Christian activist who was assisting Lu, said Laos had violated international law by deporting Lu to China, where family members and activists fear he may be at risk of imprisonment and torture. "We failed," Fu said. "It's a shame for the international human rights community."

World

AFTER FLOOD KILLED MORE THAN 11K

Libya investigates dams' collapse

AP

View of the destruction after the floods in Derna, Libya, Friday, Sept. 15, 2023.

DERNA, Libya (AP)—Libyan authorities have opened an investigation into the collapse of two dams that caused a devastating flood in a coastal city as rescue teams searched for bodies on Saturday, nearly a week after the deluge killed more than 11,000 people.

It's unclear how such an investigation can be carried out in the North African country, which plunged into chaos after a NATO-backed uprising toppled longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. For most of the past decade, Libya has been split between rival administrations—one in the east, the other in the west—each backed by powerful militias and international patrons.

One result has been the neglect of crucial infrastructure, even as climate change makes extreme weather events more frequent and severe.

Heavy rains caused by Mediterranean storm Daniel caused deadly flooding across eastern Libya last weekend. The floods overwhelmed two dams, sending a wall of water several meters high through the center of Derna, destroying entire neighborhoods and sweeping people out to sea.

More than 10,000 people are missing, according to the Libyan Red Crescent. Six days on, searchers are still digging through mud and hollowed-out buildings, looking for bodies and possible survivors. The Red Crescent has confirmed 11,300 deaths so far.

Claire Nicolet, who heads the emergencies department of the Doctors Without Borders aid group, said that rescuers found "a lot of bodies" on Friday and were still searching.

"It was a big number ... the sea is still ejecting lots of dead bodies unfortunately," she told The Associated Press.

She said major aid efforts were still needed, including urgent psychological support for those who lost their families. She said the burial of bodies is still a significant challenge, but there has been progress in coordinating search and rescue efforts and the distribution of aid.

Authorities and aid groups have voiced concern about the spread of waterborne diseases and shifting of explosive ordnance from Libya's recent conflicts.

Haider al-Saeih, head of Libya's center for combating diseases, said in televised comments Saturday that at least 150 people had suffered from diarrhea after drinking contaminated water in Derna. He urged residents only drink bottled water, which is being shipped in as part of relief efforts.

Ukrainian troops reclaim village near Bakhmut

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian forces recaptured a war-ravaged settlement in the country's embattled east, Kyiv's military leaders said Friday, a small territorial win in a churning counteroffensive marked so far by small victories but no major breakthroughs.

The taking of the village of Andriivka, 10 kilometers (6 miles) south of Russian-occupied city of Bakhmut, underscores just how difficult Ukraine's multipronged counteroffensive is shaping up to be.

In the east and the south, Ukraine is reporting minimal territorial gains after months of intense fighting and heavy losses. Despite being bolstered by NATO-standard weapons worth billions of dollars, Ukrainian military officials have said there are no quick solutions to puncture Russian defensive lines — only slow, grinding battles.

Ukraine's strategy appears to be to spread Russian forces thin across multiple directions along the front line, from vast agricultural tracts in the east to the Dnieper River, which marks the line of contact in the south, in hopes that Ukrainian troops can exploit their opponents' vulnerabilities.

The wet weather of fall and winter will likely slow Ukrainian advances. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is expected to visit Washington next week as Congress debates approving more aid.

In the northeast, Russian forces are staging their own offensive, seeking to pin Ukrainian forces and distract them from fighting elsewhere.

Three months of intense fighting finally wore down Russian forces in Andriivka, a tiny patch along the sprawling front, allowing Ukraine's 3rd Assault Brigade to make a lightning move to encircle Russian forces.

The recapture of Andriivka comes weeks after an important tactical victory for Ukrainian forces in the southern Zaporizhzhia region, where they punctured through Russia's first line of defense and took back the village of Robotyne.

The win, announced in late August, came after Ukrainian forces advanced just 7 kilometers (about 4 miles) after intense fighting that started in June.

In Loving Memory of

†Luis Arriola Benavente

Also known as **"Louie"**
Born to Life: February 15, 1939
Called to Eternal Life: September 10, 2023

In his eternal life, he now joins his:
1st Wife: Magdalena Camacho Benavente
Father: Ignacio Villagomez Benavente
Mother: Rita Arriola Benavente

Siblings:
Jose A. and Martina K. Benavente, Eleuterio A. Benavente, Estanislao A. Benavente, Trinidad A. Benavente, Sr. Veronica A. Benavente, Dolores B. Camacho, Irminia B. Cox, Maria B. Atalig, Francisca A. Benavente

Brothers/Sisters-in-law:
Jose DLG. and Shirley Camacho, Marcelino DLG. Camacho, Leonardo DLG. and Rita T. Camacho, Margarita C. Sablan, Lorenzo and Rosalia C. Flores, Francisco DLG. Camacho

His memory will forever be remembered by:
2nd Wife: Susan Benavente

Children, Spouse and Grandchildren:
Gerard (Jerry) and Jeanne Benavente (Leah Benavente and Thomas Benavente) Anthony and Lisa Benavente (Anthony & Lindsey Benavente, Jacob Benavente, Zachary Benavente, Madelyn Benavente) Stephen and Nicole Benavente Gina Benavente and Yan Liang (Paris Liang) Justin Benavente

Reared Children:
Yun Wang • Dazheng Guo

Brothers/Sisters-in-law:
Abelina Benavente, Victoria B. Camacho, Cecilia T. Camacho, Chunyan Xu, and Ming Guo, Chunsheng Xu

Additionally, **"†Louie"**will be missed by numerous cousins, nephews, nieces, and friends.

Mass is being offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 AM and at San Antonio and St. Jude at 6:00 PM.
Memorial service in Las Vegas will be at a later date.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

From the Family

Health & Wellness

On Nutrition: Tips for kids' school lunches

By BARBARA INTERMILL
Tribune News Service

Before I ever dreamed of having kids of my own, I was a consultant for the New Mexico Department of Education in Santa Fe. My job? To make sure the schools in our state were meeting federal guidelines for feeding wholesome meals to kids.

Then I had kids of my own, who often chose to take their lunch to school rather than buy it.

That was when my knowledge of foods that can optimize a child's health came face to face with getting my kids to eat those foods.

If you're one of those parents, a good starting place is to know what kids actually need nutritionally. For example, the United States Department of Agriculture's National School Lunch Program is required to follow the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (www.dietaryguidelines.gov). The recommendations change every five years based on current nutriton research.

TNS

The challenge for schools, as well as parents, is to provide a variety of nutritional foods in such a way that kids won't throw them in the trash.

Based on the 2020-2025 guidelines, five food components are required to meet a child's nutritional goals: fruit, vegetables, grains, meats and other protein alternatives, fluid milk or other dairy alternative.

That's the nutrition side.

The challenge for schools, as well as parents, is to provide a variety of these foods in such a way that kids won't throw them in the trash.

Let's just say it's a learning process.

Children, like adults, have different tastes and appetites. They may also have special dietary needs.

With that in mind, here are a few ideas that may help:

Consider the form. Most kids like fruit but might toss a fresh orange or apple unless it's cut into bite-size pieces. I guarantee it's worth the time. Younger kids also like fun finger fruits such as blueberries or strawberries. Or you can rely on the convenience of single serving cans of water or juice-packed fruit.

Some kids love vegetables, some not so much. The goal here is persistence. If tomatoes make them gag, slice a few strips of red bell pepper along with their favorite dipping dressing. Baby carrots are durable and agreeable with most kiddos. And don't forget that beans are an amazing vegetable as well as protein source (my grandkids love bean burritos).

Kids balk at "brown bread"? There are other ways to get whole grains into junior. Corn tortillas or popcorn, for example. Or cereal bars and crackers made with whole grains. And there really is such a thing as whole-grain white bread, according to the Whole Grains Council. Just be aware that "made with whole grain" is not the same as "100% whole grain."

Instead of soggy sandwiches, pack tuna or other spreads separately (with an ice pack) along with a bag of crackers. Or make graham cracker sandwiches with peanut or sunflower butter. Frozen on-the-go yogurt pops can also help keep lunches cool.

Lastly, remember that children learn about food like they learn other subjects — through consistency and repetition. Don't give up. It's worth it in the long run.

Barbara Intermill is a registered dietitian nutritionist and syndicated columnist. She is the author of "Quinn-Essential Nutrition: The Uncomplicated Science of Eating." Email her at barbara@quinn-essentialnutrition.com.

Ask the Pediatrician: What is the best backpack for my child?

Dr. SAJI AZERF
American Academy of Pediatrics

Being loaded down with textbooks, gym equipment and school supplies can make backpacks heavy and hard to wear. If they're not worn properly, backpacks may cause back, neck and shoulder pain in children and teens. While backpacks have not been shown to cause scoliosis or long-term problems, it's never too early to start good habits that can decrease back strain and pain.

To identify the perfect backpack, make sure it is the right size. Bigger is not necessarily better. The more room there is in a backpack, the more your child will carry—and the heavier the backpack will become.

Make sure to choose the right backpack that fits your child and their needs the best. The bag you choose should be proportional to your child's height.

The backpack should have two broad, padded shoulder straps. Having adjustable straps that are broad and distribute weight evenly between both shoulders is important. More padding does not translate to less pain. Both straps should stay even in length. Non padded straps can be uncomfortable and dig into your child's shoulders.

A backpack with a padded back can provide increased comfort when the backpack is appropriately fitted and close to their back. It also protects them from being poked by sharp objects or edges (pencils, rulers, notebooks, etc.) inside the pack.

Make sure the backpack includes a waist belt or chest strap, which help redistribute the weight of the backpack more evenly across the body.

Also, look for backpacks with compartments. These can help evenly distribute the weight of contents throughout the backpack.

Include your child in the decision-making process and help them make a smart purchase. This will allow them to tote their packs comfortably all year long and you won't have to go searching for a replacement.

To safely pack a school backpack, make sure that most of its weight rests in the curve of your child's lower back. Pack the heaviest items like textbooks and computers closest to the body and place other items equally on the right and left sides. Pack items in the different compartments. This helps distribute heavy loads evenly.

Backpacks shouldn't weigh more than 15% of your child's body weight. This means a child who weighs 100 pounds shouldn't have a backpack that weighs more than 15 pounds.

If your child needs to lean forward to support the backpack's weight, it's too heavy. Consider using a backpack with handles or a rolling backpack if your school allows it.

To help keep lighten the load, encourage your child to clean the backpack weekly and take out unneeded items. Your child can also store items in a locker when possible, and take only what's needed to school.

It's also important to teach your child how to pick up and wear a backpack the right way. When picking up their backpack, your child should bend their knees to avoid back strain. Then, the key is wearing the backpack so it puts weight on the strongest muscles in the body: the back and abdominal muscles.

Additional tips:

Use both shoulder straps. Slinging a backpack over one shoulder can strain muscles.

Adjust the shoulder straps so the backpack rests in the middle of your child's back.

The backpack should fit close to your child's body.

Secure the waist or chest strap. This helps keep the backpack close to your child's body and distribute the weight more evenly.

Make sure the bottom of the backpack rests in the curve of the lower back. The backpack should go from waist level up to about 1-2 inches below the shoulders. A backpack should never sit more than 4 inches below the waistline (bellybutton).

There may be times where your child or teen shouldn't wear a backpack, such as after surgery or an injury. Consider requesting a second set of books to have at home, if possible, and time to go back and forth to a locker so only items for one class at a time need to be carried.

Reinforcing healthy back habits for your child can help reduce the risk of back pain. Do not ignore back pain in a child or teenager that occurs at times other than wearing a backpack. Ask your pediatrician for advice.

More information is available at orthokids.org/safety/backpack-safety.

Saji Azerf, MD, FAAP is a member of the AAP Section of Orthopedics. He practices as non operative pediatric orthopedist in suburban Atlanta.

TNS

Make sure to choose the right backpack that fits your child and their needs the best.

Life & Style

Hugh Jackman and Deborra-lee Jackman separate after 27 years of marriage

NEW YORK (AP)—Hugh Jackman and Deborra-lee Jackman have decided to end their marriage after 27 years and two children.

"We have been blessed to share almost 3 decades together as husband and wife in a wonderful, loving marriage. Our journey now is shifting and we have decided to separate to pursue our individual growth," they said in the joint statement. Their separation was first reported by People magazine.

They said the statement would be their only one on their breakup. They added that their family is their highest priority and that they'll undertake "this next chapter with gratitude, love, and kindness."

AP

Hugh Jackman, right., and Deborra-Lee Furness Jackman attend the premiere of Apple Original Films' "Ghosted" in New York on April 18, 2023. J

A representative for the couple confirmed the statement to The Associated Press Friday.

The couple met in 1995 on the set of an Australian television show where both were actors. Deborra-lee Furness at the time was the more established of the two. They married in 1996 and had two children: Oscar, now 23, and Ava, now 18. Jackman also ascended to major stardom in Hollywood and on Broadway.

The couple have been red carpet mainstays for years, posing together at the Oscars, at Broadway events and at the Met Gala, including the most recent edition in May. They attended Wimbledon together in July.

In April, Jackman celebrated their 27th anniversary with a tribute on Instagram.

"I love you so much. Together we have created a beautiful family. And life," he wrote. "Your laughter, your spirit, generosity, humor, cheekiness, courage and loyalty is an incredible gift to me."

Furness, 67, is an advocate for orphans and adoption, especially in her native Australia, and one of the founding members of National Adoption Awareness Week.

Jackman, 54, who played the superhero Wolverine in several movies, is reprising the role in "Deadpool 3," which is on hold due to the actors strike.

Rolling Stone founder Wenner removed from Rock Hall leadership after his controversial comments

NEW YORK (AP)—Jann Wenner, who founded Rolling Stone magazine and was a co-founder of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, has been removed from the hall's board of directors after making comments that were seen as denigrating Black and female musicians.

"Jann Wenner has been removed from the Board of Directors of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Foundation," the hall said Saturday, a day after Wenner's comments were published in a New York Times interview.

A representative for Wenner, 77, did not immediately respond for a comment.

Wenner created a firestorm doing publicity for his new book "The Masters," which features interviews with musicians Bob Dylan, Jerry Garcia, Mick Jagger, John Lennon, Bruce Springsteen, Pete Townshend and U2's Bono — all white and male.

Asked why he didn't interview women or Black musicians, Wenner responded: "It's not that they're inarticulate, although, go have a deep conversation with Grace Slick or Janis Joplin. Please, be my guest. You know, Joni (Mitchell) was not a philosopher of rock 'n' roll. She didn't, in my mind, meet that test," he told the Times.

"Of Black artists—you know, Stevie Wonder, genius, right? I suppose when you use a word as broad as 'masters,' the fault is using that word. Maybe Marvin Gaye, or Curtis Mayfield? I mean, they just didn't articulate at that level," Wenner said.

Wenner founded Rolling Stone in 1967 and served as its editor or editorial director until 2019. He co-founded the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, which was launched in 1987.

In the interview, Wenner seemed to acknowledge he would face a backlash. "Just for public relations sake, maybe I should have gone and found one Black and one woman artist to include here that didn't measure up to that same historical standard, just to avert this kind of criticism."

Last year, Rolling Stone magazine published its 500 Greatest Albums of All Time and ranked Gaye's "What's Going On" No. 1, "Blue" by Mitchell at No. 3, Wonder's "Songs in the Key of Life" at No. 4, "Purple Rain" by Prince and the Revolution at No. 8 and Ms. Lauryn Hill's "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill" at No. 10.

Rolling Stone's niche in magazines was an outgrowth of Wenner's outsized interests, a mixture of authoritative music and cultural coverage with tough investigative reporting.

Hollywood strikes enter new phase as daytime shows like Barrymore's return despite pickets

NEW YORK (AP)—"The Drew Barrymore Show" will begin airing fresh episodes on Monday but a lot of off-air controversy will be clinging to its typically bubbly host.

Barrymore—a daughter of a proud acting dynasty—is making new batches of her syndicated talk show despite picketers outside her studio, as daytime TV becomes the latest battlefield in the ongoing Hollywood labor strife.

"We're four months approximately into this strike and it's not surprising that there are defectors," said Michael H. LeRoy, a professor of labor and employment relations at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "I couldn't predict that this would happen on daytime TV, but everybody has a breaking point in a labor dispute."

"The Drew Barrymore Show," operating without its three union writers, isn't the only daytime show to resume. "The View" has returned for its 27th season on ABC, while "Tamron Hall" and "Live With Kelly and Ryan" — neither are governed by writers guild rules — have also been producing fresh episodes. "The Jennifer Hudson Show" and "The Talk" are also restarting Monday.

As long as the hosts and guests don't discuss or promote work covered by television, theatrical or streaming contracts, they're not technically breaking the strike. That's because talk shows are covered under a separate contract—the so-called Network Code—from the one actors and writers are striking. The Network Code also covers reality TV, sports, morning news shows, soap operas and game shows.

AP

Kal Penn, center left, and John Cho, center right, speak during a rally outside Paramount Pictures Studio on Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023, in Los Angeles.

Surly neighbor has alienated good samaritan

DEAR ABBY: I have lived in my apartment for nine years. When I moved in, I met a woman who moved in about the same time. We became friendly, and I enjoyed talking to her at the pool and mailbox —until I got to know her better. She has alienated all the other neighbors and kids in the complex with her attitude. She butts into conversations and asks personal questions, despite claiming to "mind her business and keep to herself." Abby, I was raised to be forgiving and understanding. I have reached out to her and taken her to the store and medical appointments, but then she freaks out, swears and demands that I speed up, take her to thrift stores, etc. She asks why I don't take the freeway instead of surface streets with traffic lights.

I finally quit taking her places, but now she has started walking into my apartment, sitting down and asking me questions. She also gets mad when she sees I went to the store without her. How do I politely, but firmly, tell her to leave me alone and I no longer want to have anything to do with her? She makes me anxious and drives me crazy. I understand she's lonely, but she's a miserable person to be around.

DOORMAT GUY OUT WEST

DEAR DOORMAT GUY: If you know someone will walk into your apartment uninvited, for heaven's sake, lock your door! If this neighbor rings the bell or knocks, tell her you are busy and cannot entertain her and shut the door. If she corners you and rants about you having gone to the store without her, tell her in plain English WHY you stopped doing it. That said, I think it would be more hurtful than helpful to point out the other reasons she has made herself a social pariah.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been happily married for 30 years. Since my wife recently retired, her crossword hobby has become an obsession. She does them all day, whether we are watching TV, talking or eating meals. When we go out, she carries crossword puzzles to do or does them on her phone. When our kids visit, she ignores them and does crossword puzzles. During the last holiday celebrations, she sat staring at her phone crosswords instead of participating in family interactions. If she were my child, I would take away her phone. But she's an adult and my wife, so I can't do that. Before she retired, she did crossword puzzles two or three times a week, and we had fun doing them together. Now I am completely ignored. I have talked to her about my feelings. It didn't help, so I'm hoping to get some good advice from you.

PUZZLED HUSBAND

DEAR PUZZLED: Talk to your wife again. Tell her you no longer are willing to be ignored while she indulges in her obsession with crossword puzzles. What she's doing is unfair to you and the family. Suggest the two of you consult a licensed marriage and family therapist. If she refuses, schedule some sessions for yourself. From what you have described, your marriage is in trouble, and your wife is using her crossword puzzles to escape from the real world.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

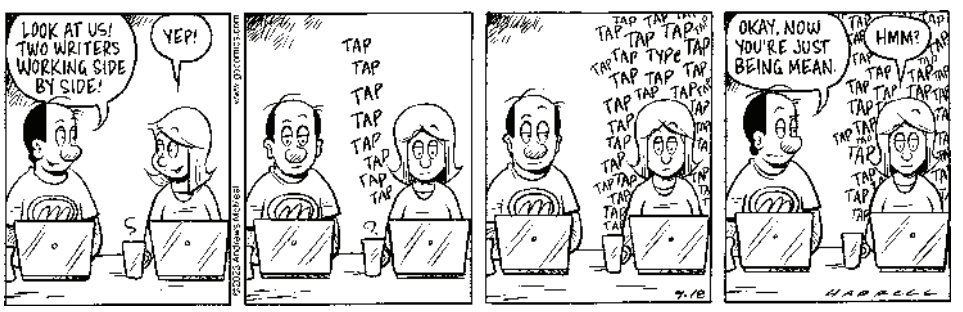
YOUR NEW POLLS ARE IN, DAD.
MM.
A VAST MAJORITY OF HOUSEHOLD SIX-YEAR-OLDS SAY YOU'RE NOT LIVING UP TO THEIR EXPECTATIONS OF FATHERHOOD.
WHAT WERE THEIR EXPECTATIONS?
THAT YOU'D BE MORE LIKE AN AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINE.
WHERE DO YOU POLLSTERS FIND THESE RESPONDENTS?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I'D LIKE TO OFFER YOU THE POSITION WITH OUR COMPANY.
I KNOW YOU'LL SHOW US HARD WORK. YOU'LL SHOW US COMMITMENT. YOU'LL SHOW US A WILLINGNESS TO PUT IN LONG HOURS.
I'LL SHOW MYSELF OUT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Bowler, e.g.
4 Bashes
9 Wild bunch
12 Avril follower
13 — Holmes (Sherlock's sleuthing sister)
14 Paris pal
15 Emmy-winning "Succession" actor Matthew
17 Taxi
18 Buck-eyes' sch.
19 Coniferous trees
21 Celestial streakers
24 Despot
25 Altar constellation
26 Collection
28 Daring swimwear
31 Denomination
33 Tease
35 Aerial stunt
36 Sky-rockets
38 Gallery display
40 Secret-protecting doc.
41 Stadium cheers
43 Van Gogh painting
45 "Gosford Park" director Robert
47 Helium, for one
48 Homer's cry
49 Hawaiian nut
54 Dhabi preceder
55 Wear down
56 LBJ's successor
57 Sea, to Henri
58 Tennis great Monica
59 Covert agent

DOWN
1 "Let me think ..."
2 Bond rating
3 Spasm
4 Banquets
5 Ultimate consumer
6 Playpen item
7 Put in office
8 Most rational
9 Almond cookies
10 Epps of "House"
11 Shirt protectors
16 Nemesis
20 Willy Wonka's creator
21 Mama — Elliot
22 Sandwich treat
23 General played by Henry Fonda
27 Spanish aunt
29 Protuberance
30 Transcript stats
32 Streetcar
34 Military unit
37 Dishonors
39 Swaps
42 Entrap
44 "Life — cabaret ..."
45 Eve's mate
46 Earring site
50 Newspaper page div.
51 Doubtfire or Dalloway
52 Little rascal
53 Whatever

Solution time: 21 mins.

L	A	P		S	A	N		S	O	N	Y	A
A	N	A		C	C	O		U	R	G	A	N
I	N	T		S	Q	J	I	D	G	A	M	E
N	O	O		H	U	N	T	S				
S	Y	N	C			I	S	E		P	O	L	O
			B	L	T		M	A	S	K	E	D
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			K	N	O	B	S		R	A	M	
S	H	E	L	L	G	A	M	E		E	T	S
H	O	R	S	E		T	I	X		P	O	E
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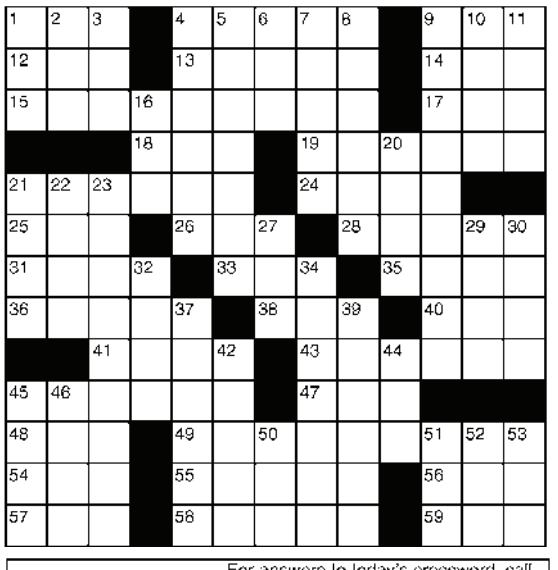
Last Friday's Answer



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Sudeikis, 48; James Marsden, 50; Jada Pinkett Smith, 52; Aisha Tyler, 53.

Happy Birthday: Take time, plan your actions and follow through. Turn this year into one to remember. Be true to yourself, and make happiness and peace of mind your priorities. Simplify, get along and practice moderation; you'll set a positive example and feel good about yourself and what you can accomplish. Perfection may be your aim, but flaws can make a statement. Don't be too hard on yourself; go with the flow. Your numbers are 8, 14, 22, 25, 31, 36, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Gravitate toward someone you feel akin to, and put your energy and gestures into increasing enthusiasm regarding your long-term plans. Nurture partnerships, adjust what's necessary to enforce closer ties and focus on unity. Make an effort and collect the rewards. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't stop when being earnest about achieving what you want is essential. Giving in to temptation will lead to regret. Refuse to let an emotional matter cost you your time, money or reputation. Stay focused on what matters most to you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Trust your instincts over what someone tries to lead you to believe. Focus on home, family and what makes you happy and healthy. Keep the peace by doing your fair share, being willing to compromise and offering compassion and patience to those in need. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Simplify your life. Refuse to let money, joint ventures and unwise decisions leave you struggling emotionally or financially. Embrace positive alternatives and sidle up to people who have as much to contribute as you. The conversations that take place will stimulate your imagination. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Set boundaries and a budget before you invest time or money in something or someone. Figure out what you want and expect from others before you pledge to honor the demands you encounter. Protect your position and reputation. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Set a goal and follow through. Invite change and opportunity to your table, and new beginnings will help you flourish. Follow your dreams and mix and mingle with people who are doers and lovers of life. Use your energy to excel instead of conflict. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Put your energy where it counts, and refuse to let anyone talk you into excessive spending. Choose to improve what you have to offer and focus on what's trending. Stay current, and you'll outsmart any competition you encounter. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Your concern and emotional attachment to situations at home or work will urge you to get things running smoothly. Your effort will change how others think and react, pushing you to continue your mission. Keep your actions simple and effective. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Ask reliable people to assist you, and discard anyone who offers false information or uses chaos as a calling card. Aim to stabilize whatever situation you face and simultaneously protect your money and reputation. Get your facts straight and your allies informed. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A steady pace is your best way forward. Choose not to share personal or financial information. Make a stabilizing domestic change, and you'll feel less agitated by what others do or say. Feeling comfortable with your living arrangements will lower your stress. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Get the facts before you react. An emotional situation will explode if you are too quick to judge. Make peace and love your priorities, and offer gestures that put others at ease. You gain insight by being kind and generous, not hostile and argumentative. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't limit your impact because you are afraid to say what's on your mind. A direct approach will bring about positive change if you are friendly and offer suggestions. Kindness and appreciation will help you open the door to a better future. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are flexible, realistic and extraordinary. You are compassionate and enterprising.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4				6	2		3
9	2						1	
1	5	6	2		7		8	4
5				4				
				6	3		9	
				5	2			6
4	1		3	7	9		6	
6	3			2	8			9
8		5	6			7		2

Difficulty: ★ 9/18

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

1	9	4	6	3	2	7	8	5
6	3	7	8	5	4	2	9	1
2	8	5	7	9	1	4	6	3
5	7	6	9	2	8	3	1	4
8	1	3	4	6	7	9	5	2
4	2	9	5	1	3	8	7	6
7	4	1	3	8	5	6	2	9
9	5	8	2	4	6	1	3	7
3	6	2	1	7	9	5	4	8

Difficulty: ★★★★ 9/16

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

PLAYING THE GLOCKENSPIEL Solution: 5 letters

N	R	P	S	I	R	C	M	U	N	I	M	U	L	A
T	O	H	L	L	I	R	H	S	N	E	T	A	L	P
H	H	I	Y	T	D	L	I	S	T	E	N	C	Y	M
I	M	G	S	T	H	I	T	L	E	B	A	L	R	E
G	A	A	I	S	H	R	A	H	E	Z	I	S	O	L
H	L	T	D	R	U	M	S	T	I	C	K	O	E	O
P	L	L	N	M	B	C	Y	N	O	M	R	A	H	D
I	E	B	E	A	T	E	R	S	O	N	R	E	T	Y
T	T	N	N	N	I	S	Y	E	K	N	I	R	I	E
C	T	D	O	D	G	L	S	G	P	E	A	C	K	P
H	S	P	A	T	M	T	L	R	M	U	S	I	C	A
C	S	C	A	S	E	E	H	I	L	Y	R	E	P	H
R	O	P	M	E	T	S	T	P	R	T	U	N	E	S
A	N	E	L	G	N	I	J	A	S	B	R	A	S	S
M	G	S	O	P	R	A	N	O	L	L	I	R	A	C

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Aluminum, Band, Beaters, Brass, Bright, Brilliant, Carillon, Case, Crisp, Diatonic, Drumstick, Grip, Harmony, High-pitch, Instrument, Jingle, Keys, Label, Learn, Length, Listen, Lyre, Mallet, March, Melody, Metal, Music, Notes, Percussion, Piano, Pierce, Plastic, Plate, Rhythm, Shape, Sheet, Shrill, Size, Song, Soprano, Steel, Strike, Taps, Tempo, Theory, Time, Tune

Last Friday's Answer: Albums

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Dodgers win 10th NL West title in 11 years with victory over Mariners

SEATTLE (AP)—The Los Angeles Dodgers won the NL West title for the 10th time in 11 seasons with a 6-2 victory in 11 innings over the Seattle Mariners on Saturday night.

Max Muncy's single off Gabe Speier (2-2) scored Mookie Betts from second base with one out in the 11th to give the Dodgers the lead. Chris Taylor and Kike Hernández followed with two-run singles off Isaiah Campbell.

Evan Phillips (2-4) pitched the 10th inning and Joe Kelly got the final three outs. Afterward, the Dodgers held a brief celebration on the field filled with hugs, and division-title shirts and hats.

While the Dodgers will spend the final two weeks of the regular season solidifying their playoff position, the Mariners stumbled for a second straight night with the chance to make up ground in the AL West race.

After nine scoreless innings of terrific pitching on both sides, each team got a key at-bat from a pinch-hitter in the 10th. Kolten Wong's sacrifice fly gave the Dodgers a 1-0 lead, but Mike Ford answered with a two-out RBI single to score Josh Rojas and tie the game at 1.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers relief pitcher Ryan Brasier reacts after striking out Seattle Mariners' Teoscar Hernandez to end the eight inning of a baseball game Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023, in Seattle.

ORIOLES 8, RAYS 0

BALTIMORE (AP)—Gunnar Henderson homered and drove in three runs, Grayson Rodriguez pitched eight outstanding innings and Baltimore secured a potentially crucial tiebreaker in the AL East with a victory overe Tampa Bay.

After losing the first two of this four-game set, the Orioles (92-56) moved a game ahead of second-place Tampa Bay (92-58) and won the season series. That means if the teams tie for first in the division, Baltimore would win.

Rodriguez (6-4) has been sharp since returning from the minors in mid-July, looking like the highly touted prospect he was at the beginning of the season. He allowed five hits in a career-high eight innings, striking out seven without a walk.

DIAMONDBACKS 7, CUBS 6, 13 INNINGS

PHOENIX (AP) — Gabriel Moreno singled to right to score Evan Longoria in the 13th inning and Arizona rallied to beat Chicago.

With runners at the corners and two outs, Emmanuel Rivera hit liner off pitcher Hayden Wesneski's shoulder that rebounded toward shortstop. Dansby Swanson let the ball bounce, but it spun away from him for a hit that allowed the tying run to score. Moreno' followed with his single, and Longoria slid headfirst and got his left hand around Yan Gomes' mitt after the catcher gloved Seiya Suzuki's throw.

The Diamondbacks closed within a half-game of the Cubs for the second NL wild-card berth and are tied with Cincinnati for the third and final spot, with Miami a half-game behind the tied teams. The Cubs lost their fourth in a row and fell 6 1/2 games behind Milwaukee in the NL Central.

At 4 hours, 24 minutes, it was the longest game of season, topping 4:10 for a Texas-Minnesota matchup Aug. 27.

MARLINS 11, BRAVES 5

MIAMI (AP)—Jake Burger hit a go-ahead two-run homer and Jazz Chisholm Jr. added a grand slam in the eighth inning to help Miami beat Atlanta.

Luis Arraez and Yuli Gurriel also went deep for the Marlins, who became the first NL East team to win a series against the division champions. The Braves were 11-0-1 in their previous series against division opponents.

Matt Olson hit his major league-leading 52nd homer and overtook Andruw Jones as Atlanta's single-season home run leader. Jones hit 51 in 2005.

Josh Bell drew a two-out walk against Braves reliever Kirby Yates (7-2) before Burger made it 7-5 with a drive over the wall in center for his 32nd homer and seventh since he joined Miami on Aug. 1.

Gurriel singled, and Jesús Sánchez and Garrett Hampson walked before Chisholm connected off Michael Tonkin for Miami's first grand slam of the season.

Ozzie Albies hit his 30th homer and became the fifth Braves' player to reach the total this season.

YANKEES 6, PIRATES 3

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Giancarlo Stanton hit a solo home run in the third inning for just his second hit in eight games, New York relievers retired 15 consecutive batters and the Yankees beat the Pittsburgh.

Stanton led off the third with his 24th home run this season, a 418-foot solo drive off Luis Ortiz (4-5) into the left-field bleachers that extended the Yankees' lead to 4-2. The five-time All-Star is 2 for 27 since Sept. 6 and has three hits, each a home run, in 31 at-bats since Sept. 5. He is hitting a career-low .195.

New York is 5-1 on a seven-game trip and has won 14 of 19, moving two games ahead of last-place Boston in the AL East.

REDS 3, METS 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Christian Encarnacion-Strand hit a two-run homer and Cincinnati held off New York for another important victory in the race for the last National League wild card.

With two runners aboard, Derek Law retired Mets slugger Pete Alonso on a game-ending groundout for his second save.

Encarnacion-Strand, who made his first big league start at third base, singled and stole second in the second inning before hitting a 428-foot homer to right-center in the fourth.

TJ Friedl scored the Reds' first run on a throwing error by Mets catcher Francisco Álvarez. Daniel Duarte (3-0) got four outs in relief of Andrew Abbott, who allowed two runs and struck out five in 3 2/3 innings.

ROCKIES 9, GIANTS 5, 1ST GAME
ROCKIES 5, GIANTS 2, 2ND GAME

DENVER (AP)—San Francisco's playoff chances were damaged when the Colorado a day-night doubleheader, taking advantage of seven walks in the opener and two errors and a pair of wild pitches in the nightcap.

Ezequiel Tovar finished with five hits and five RBIs on the day, including a career-high four RBIs in the opener for the Rockies.

The Giants fell 2 1/2 games behind Cincinnati for the last NL wild card.

Victor Vodnik (1-0) won in his first big league decision in the second game, allowing one run and two hits over two innings in of relief of Kyle Freeland, who left after three innings due to a mild right oblique strain. Colorado has won five straight and captured its first series from an NL West opponent this season.

Karl Kauffman (2-4) won the opener.

WHITE SOX 7, TWINS 6

CHICAGO (AP)—Eloy Jiménez and Gavin Sheets homered during Chicago's five-run first inning and the White Sox beat Pablo López and Minnesota.

Touki Toussaint (4-7) struck out eight in five effective innings as lowly Chicago stopped a four-game slide. Tim Anderson had three hits and started a key double play in the seventh. Tanner Banks got his first career save.

Minnesota had won three of four. With the loss and Cleveland's 2-1 victory over Texas, the Twins' magic number for winning the AL Central title remained seven.

BREWERS 9, NATIONALS 5

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Mark Canha hit a tiebreaking grand slam off Kyle Finnegan with two outs in the eighth inning and NL Central-leading Milwaukee beat Washington.

The Brewers bounced back after blowing a four-run lead and won for the 13th time in their last 15 home games.

Washington had rallied to tie it on Jake Alu's two-out bloop hit off Joel Payamps (6-4) in the top of the eighth after trailing 5-1 in the sixth against All-Star Corbin Burnes. Finnegan dropped to 7-5.

PHILLIES 6, CARDINALS 1

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Kyle Schwarber hit his 44th homer, sparking NL wild-card leading Philadelphia past St. Louis.

Schwarber's three-run homer came on a 2-2 pitch in the fifth inning, extending the Phillies' lead to 5-1. The homer snapped a 0-for-16 slump for Schwarber, who sports a .197 season average. He hiked his RBIs total to 97.

GUARDIANS 2, RANGERS 1

CLEVELAND (AP)—Steven Kwan drove in Bo Naylor following Tyler Freeman's tying single in the eighth inning, rallying Cleveland past Texas.

The Rangers, who remain in the second AL wild-card position, dropped their second straight in the series. They entered the day a half-game behind first-place Houston and one game ahead of third-place Seattle in the AL West.

ROYALS 10, ASTROS 8

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Kyle Isbel's bunt single highlighted a three-run seventh in Kansas City's victory over Houston.

Reliever Hector Neris (6-3) flipped head over heels trying to glove Isbel's squeeze bunt RBI hit in the seventh inning. Breaking a 6-all tie, the Royals added two more runs, aided by third baseman Alex Bregman's throwing error.

With Texas losing 2-1 at Cleveland, Houston maintained a half-game lead in the American League West despite the loss.

Logan Porter capped Kansas City's scoring with his first major league home run in the eighth. James McArthur (1-0) struck out two for his first major league victory.

TIGERS 6, ANGELES 4, 10 INNINGS

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Miguel Cabrera hit a tie-breaking single in the 10th inning and Detroit beat Los Angeles after blowing a three-run lead in the ninth.

Earlier in the day, the Angels announced Shohei Ohtani will have surgery soon on the ligament tear in his pitching elbow after the two-way star was ruled out for the rest of the season due to an oblique injury.

Sawyer Gipson-Long struck out 11 in his second major league start and Zack Short hit a three-run homer for the Tigers. They led 4-1 in the ninth before closer Alex Lange (7-4) gave up Jared Walsh's two-run homer and Brett Phillips' solo shot.

BLUE JAYS 4, RED SOX 3, 13 INNINGS

TORONTO (AP)—Whit Merrifield singled in the 13th inning to lift Toronto past Boston.

Merrifield's infield single off Mauricio Llovera (1-3) drove in Vladimir Guerrero Jr. from third base. Chad Green (3-0) pitched an inning for the victory.

Guerrero hit a solo home run and reached base five times as the Blue Jays ensured they would not lose ground in the AL wild-card race. Toronto began the day a half- game behind Seattle for the third wild-card spot.

PADRES 5, ATHLETICS 2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Juan Soto hit a sacrifice fly and drew a bases-loaded walk, Matt Waldron struck out five pitching into the sixth for his first major league victory and San Diego secured a series win for manager Bob Melvin against his former Oakland club.

Soto put the Padres on the board in the first on the sacrifice fly and Xander Bogaerts hit an RBI single one batter later to stake San Diego to a quick lead in support of Waldron (1-3). Josh Hader pitched the ninth for his 29th save.

Mason Miller (0-3) was the loser.

Swift takes center stage with 175 yards rushing; bails out Hurts and Eagles

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Eagles had a pretty good running back in Miles Sanders. Sanders was steady, durable and even rushed for more than 1,200 yards and scored 11 touchdowns in a season that ended in the Super Bowl.

But in the modern NFL, a good running back is as disposable as a cheap razor. It's a pass-first, quarterback-driven league these days.

So much so that elite running backs griped when teams this past offseason refused to give them the lucrative long-term contracts players such as the Giants' Saquon Barkley thought they deserved.

When Carolina offered Sanders a deal with $13 million in guaranteed money, the Eagles said, thanks for the memories, and let him loose. D'Andre Swift was available, after all, and the Eagles (2-0) were able to sign him for less than half the guaranteed money the Panthers are paying Sanders.

Running behind a line anchored by Jason Kelce and Lane Johnson, the big men up front opened lanes as they always do, and Swift bailed out the Eagles on a night when Jalen Hurts was off a beat.

Swift rushed for a career-high 175 yards and a touchdown in a 34-28 win over the Minnesota Vikings on Thursday night. Plug in a talented running back and the big numbers for bargain bucks—by NFL standards—are sure to follow.

AP

Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts (1) celebrates his touchdown with Philadelphia Eagles running back D'Andre Swift (0) during the second half of an NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings on Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023, in Philadelphia.

Hours before kickoff, general manager Howie Roseman walked in the end zone—just a few strides from where comedian Kevin Hart schmoozed with long-time announcer Merrill Reese—to fans screaming his name. One yelled, "Howie, you're the GOAT!" and he simply gave a fist pump in the air and kept walking. One reason he's earned that rep is his refusal to place a premium on running backs. Roseman has never drafted one in the first round in a dozen seasons running the Eagles. The good RBs are out there, he figures, and they often can be had on the cheap.

The early returns show that Roseman nailed it with Swift.

Swift is a feel-good story for the Eagles. The 24-year-old was raised in the Philadelphia area and attended St. Joseph's Preparatory School before he went on to play at Georgia. He had about 30 friends and family members at Lincoln Financial Field, and coach Nick Sirianni rewarded Swift in his homecoming by giving him the bulk of the carries. Swift had 28 of Philadelphia's 48 total carries, ripped off a 43-yard run and led a rushing game that finished with 259 yards. The total was the second-most yards rushing in a game in Sirianni's three seasons.

Swift, who had one carry for 3 yards in the opener, may just be getting started.

"He showed vision, explosiveness," Sirianni said. "I thought the offensive line did a phenomenal job of pushing them off the ball. Was really pleased that he protected the ball. Protecting the football is not an easy thing."

Swift never rushed for more than 617 yards in any of his three seasons with Detroit. With Kenneth Gainwell out because of injured ribs, Swift made the most of his opportunity, and he surely will get more chances in the weeks ahead to prove he's worthy of carrying the load as the No. 1 running back.

"It was a hell of a job and we needed it from him," Hurts said.

A year after special teams was a true weak link in otherwise sensational all-around team play, the unit has picked up the pace this season.

Jake Elliott continues to shine, booting a 24-yard field goal and then a 61-yarder to close the first half, but the standout effort might go to veteran Justin Evans.

Evans punched the ball out on Brandon Powell 's punt return to force a fumble in the first quarter that was recovered by Nicholas Morrow.

Perhaps it seemed fitting on a night when Swift took center stage at the Linc that bad blood was brewing on the sideline.

Against New England, tight end Dallas Goedert had no receptions and publicly took the shutout in stride. Against the Patriots, No. 1 receiver—or is that DeVonta Smith?—A.J. Brown got into a heated exchange with Hurts on the sideline in the second half.

Sirianni had to intervene and cool down Brown, who had only four catches for 29 yards. Brown had 88 catches for 1,496 yards a year ago but has just 11 for 108 through two games this season.

Sirianni, who at first said he didn't know anything about the confrontation before he was told it was caught on national television, said the dispute was a private matter.

Brown's complaints were no big deal to Hurts.

"Everybody wants to make plays. Everybody wants to contribute," Hurts said. "I have no worries about him. He's a great teammate, a great friend."

Smith had only four catches but one of them was a 63-yard touchdown and another was a 54-yard leaping reception.

Hurts—whose three total touchdowns still delighted fantasy football owners—has yet to play anything like the NFL MVP runner-up he was last season. Yes, there's an adjustment to new offensive coordinator Brian Johnson, but it was another ho-hum outing of 18 of 23 for 193 yards without the breakout runs or passes on the fly that made him so exhilarating to watch last season.

As expected, Hurts' performance was downplayed because, well, he's still Jalen Hurts, and of most importance, the Eagles are 2-0 for the 10th time since 1970.

"Of course, we want to be able to create some more explosives," Sirianni said. "I have to go watch the game tonight and figure out how we can create some more explosives."

Cornerback Avonte Maddox could miss significant time with a shoulder injury and wide receiver WR Quez Watkins was forced out with a hamstring injury.

Jets' Rodgers using doubters as motivation and indicates he'll play again

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers says he'll use doubters as motivation in his rehabilitation from Achilles tendon surgery and indicates he'll play football again—perhaps even this season.

Rodgers tore his left Achilles tendon on the fourth snap of his debut with his new team on Monday night, a 22-16 overtime victory over Buffalo. The four-time NFL MVP had surgery Wednesday in Los Angeles.

"I think what I'd like to say is, give me the doubts," Rodgers said in an appearance on ESPN's "The Pat McAfee Show" on Friday. "Give me the timetables. Give me all the things that you think can, should or will happen because all I need is that one little extra percent of inspiration. That's all I need.

"So give me your doubts, give me your prognostications and then watch what I do."

Rodgers' surgery was performed by Dr. Neal ElAttrache, an orthopedic surgeon based in Los Angeles who has worked with numerous professional athletes during his career. The 39-year-old quarterback faces a long, arduous recovery and rehabilitation from the injury.

"Definitely some odds stacked against me based on age, but I like it," Rodgers said. "Stack all the odds up against me and see what happens."

He said he has spoken to several people who have had a similar injury and rehabilitation process.

"My entire focus and dedication is on acquiring the most information," Rodgers said. "And then adding to what I've already put together is a pretty damn good rehab plan that's going to, I think, shock some people."

Rodgers wouldn't put any timetables on his return, but he made it clear he intends to play football again. He was asked if he means this season—if the Jets make it to the playoffs.

"I'm not going to make any of those statements," Rodgers said. "I don't feel like that's fair to myself. I think, as Kevin Garnett said, anything's possible."

Rodgers said he knew the injury was bad nearly as soon as it happened because it felt different from previous calf injuries he has had during his career. He was sacked by Buffalo's Leonard Floyd, got up and took a few steps, looked over to the Jets' sideline and shook his head and then sat on the turf as the MetLife Stadium crowd sat in stunned silence.

"Monday was an amazing day to start," Rodgers said. "Amazing night running on the field with the flag, electric. And then it turned into one of the toughest 24 hours stretches I've had in my life, for sure. A lot of sadness, a lot of tears, a lot of dark frustration and anger, all the gamut of emotions.

"But then the sun rose the next day, and I found myself in LA and had surgery on Wednesday. And since then, I've been feeling better."

Rodgers said one of the worst parts was having his teammates see him in the locker room at halftime, particularly wide receiver Randall Cobb — who was also a longtime teammate in Green Bay and has a son for whom Rodgers is the godfather.

"I kind of lost it," Rodgers said. "And, you know, after everybody else came in, it's just kind of blubbering some sort of thank-yous through the disappointment and the tears. But I'm thankful for the tears. It makes you feel like you're alive. And I care about it so much. I care about what we were trying to establish and did establish, you know, chemistry-wise and culture-wise.

"I just care about it so much. It just hit me like a ton of bricks for 24 hours."

Rodgers said he has been flooded with messages of support since the injury and appreciated everyone reaching out. He can't put any weight on his foot while it heals but intends to return to the Jets' facility when he's cleared to travel.

"I miss the guys," he said. "I miss New York, New Jersey, the energy, the excitement."

Zach Wilson will start in Rodgers' place at Dallas on Sunday and in the foreseeable future. The third-year quarterback struggled his first two seasons, but Rodgers took him under his wing since he was traded to New York in April.

"I'm very confident in Zach and I think he's confident himself, which is the most important thing," Rodgers said. "I'm excited for him. He's a great kid. Love him, and I'm pulling for him."

NBA takes steps to try to ensure its star players appear in more games

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA took steps Wednesday to try to ensure that its star players appear in more games, particularly nationally televised matchups and the in-season tournament that is being added this year.

The league's board of governors approved a new player participation policy that will take effect for this upcoming season, replacing the player resting policy that was implemented prior to the 2017-18 season. The new rules focus primarily on star players—someone who has been an All-Star or on the All-NBA team in any of the prior three seasons. There are 50 players who fit into the star category.

"It's a shared view by everyone in the league, it's not just coming from the league office," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "I think whether it's our teams, our players association, individual players, I think there's an acknowledgement across the league that we need to return to that principle that this is an 82-game league. ... I think there's a statement of principle that if you're a healthy player in this league, the expectation is that you're going to play."

AP

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver answers questions during the NBA basketball All-Star weekend Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023, in Salt Lake City.

Increased player participation is a top priority for Silver as the league negotiates a new media rights deal. The current deal ends in 2025.

Teams will have to manage their rosters to ensure only one star player is unavailable per game at the most.

"What we've tried to do as the league office is work through all the different issues recognizing the genuine concern from the fans and of course the media that's paying for the opportunity to broadcast those games," Silver said.

The league will have the ability to penalize teams that violate the policy by fining them $100,000 for the first infraction and $250,000 for the second. Each successive violation will increase by $1 million.

The NBA also wants teams to maintain a balance between the number of one-game absences a star player has at home and on the road, as well as refrain from any long-term shutdowns where a star player stops playing games.

The league will allow teams to submit written requests in advance for older players for back-to-back games. This is for a small pool of stars who are either 35 or older at the start of the season or have played in over 34,000 regular-season minutes or 1,000 games in their careers. LeBron James, Kevin Durant and Stephen Curry all fit in that category.

"The Players Association was very much a part of it," Silver said of discussions on the new policy. "We had extensive discussions with them and then with individual groups of players, particularly the veterans in the league, about how they thought we should be approaching it."

Teams will be able to make other requests to have players miss games that include personal reasons, player's prior injury history and end-of-season flexibility.

NBA BRIEFS

Cavaliers executive Altman arrested and charged with operating a vehicle while impaired

CLEVELAND (AP)—Cleveland Cavaliers president of basketball operations Koby Altman was arrested Friday night and charged with operating a vehicle while impaired. The Ohio State Highway Patrol said Altman was stopped by officers for a traffic violation on a highway near downtown Cleveland. The officers suspected Altman of impairment during the stop and he was taken into custody, according to a report from the highway patrol. Altman refused to take a breath test, but the report noted he was "respectful and cooperative" with troopers. He was charged with OVI and committing a marked lanes violation. Altman turned 41 on Saturday. The Cavaliers released a short statement saying they were aware of "an incident" involving Altman and were gathering more information. Altman joined Cleveland's front office in 2012 and rose through the personnel department before being promoted to general manager in 2017.

Vanderbilt gets 4-year contract extension from the Lakers, AP source says

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers have agreed to a four-year, $48 million contract extension with forward Jarred Vanderbilt, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Friday. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the Lakers haven't announced the long-term deal with their defensive specialist. The contract includes a player option in the fourth year. The Lakers acquired Vanderbilt from Utah in February, and he quickly became a key rotation player during their impressive late-season run to the Western Conference finals. While not a major offensive contributor, Vanderbilt averaged 7.2 points and 6.7 rebounds per game in the regular season while frequently being asked to guard the opponents' top scorer. Vanderbilt started 24 regular-season games and started 13 of the Lakers' 15 playoff games. After Orlando drafted Vanderbilt in the second round in 2018, he began his NBA career in Denver. He joined Minnesota for 140 games over parts of three seasons before the Jazz acquired him last summer. The Lakers went 18-8 and then won two playoff rounds after dramatically improving their roster at the trade deadline, and general manager Rob Pelinka has spent the summer improving or locking down the core of last season's team around LeBron James and Anthony Davis. Los Angeles has agreed to contract extensions with Vanderbilt, Davis, D'Angelo Russell, Austin Reaves and Rui Hachimura while acquiring Jaxson Hayes, Taurean Prince, Gabe Vincent, Cam Reddish and Christian Wood.

Mavericks re-sign Markieff Morris, who was the other piece in Kyrie Irving trade

DALLAS (AP)—Markieff Morris, the other piece of the trade that brought Kyrie Irving to Dallas from Brooklyn, is re-signing with the Mavericks. The return of Morris was announced Saturday, a little more than two months after Irving agreed to stay with Dallas on a $120 million, three-year contract. Irving and Morris were traded in February. The 34-year-old Morris played sparingly after the trade, averaging 4.5 points in almost nine minutes per game with Dallas. The forward has career averages of 10.6 points and 5.0 rebounds in 12 seasons with eight teams. Whether Morris sees more playing time will depend on the roles of trade acquisitions Grant Williams and Richaun Holmes. Another factor will be the development of rookie first-round picks Dereck Lively II and Olivier Maxence-Prosper. Morris was with the Los Angeles Lakers when they won the championship in the 2020 playoff "bubble" in Florida.

211.4-LB

From page 20

nament and thanked his family and crew that came out to join him. About the prize money, he said they'll definitely be splitting it between the crew.

He then thanked SFA, Curtis Dancoe, chairman of the tournament, and the crew on a successful tournament.

The tournament had a $1,000 registration fee and had 28 boats registered. Only one boat—*Papa San*—walked away with 95% of the pot money from the total of the registration fee earnings.

A portion of the proceeds will go toward SFA for their community service projects, assisting and preserving the culture of fishing, and promoting tourism.

Dancoe said this is the largest payout ever from a fishing derby and said that this first Johnnie Walker Blue Label Classic Bill Fish Tournament was a successful one.

"We're really excited this year to have Johnnie Walker Blue Label on board with this. It's a prestigious tournament that pits the best of the best fishermen in the Marianas from Guam, Japan, Palau, and the CNMI," he said.

He added about the tournament, "The participants were excited. We wanted to focus on bill fish and everybody prepared their gear for just that species of fish."

When asked if they'll make this an annual tournament, he said, "We're going to sit down with SFA and the participants and get some feedback from them on what they'd like to see in the future. This is all for them and it's for our community. We've had a tremendous amount of success with it and we hope to continue."

About the weather that day, Dancoe said the waters were choppy, but there was no Small Craft Advisory. "The wind picked up in the afternoon, which was optimal for the type of fish we're going after. We don't want it to fall out and we don't want it too rough—we want it perfect and we've experienced that today."

LADY

From page 20

The Lady Knights' defense then crumbled as they couldn't win any rallies or return Omampo's serves, and the game changed in favor of the Lady Eagles, 18-14. From there, multiple quick points by GCA silenced MCS, to win 21-14.

MCS tried to bring the game into a tie-breaking third set as they came back with a vengeance in the second when they drew first blood. They led early on again, but GCA always managed to find their way back on top with their teamwork, communication, and Fatialofa's confidence at the net.

The Lady Eagles eventually led 10-5, then 13-8, and 17-12. The Lady Knights' breakdown of communication cost them some points and eventually, they could not catch up to the Lady Eagles' widening lead. Then, with just one more point for GCA to win, Fatialofa ended the game with a big kill down an open spot between a couple of Lady Knights for the 21-15 match-clinching victory.

Along with Fatialofa, Zheng, and Omampo, GCA's roster includes Eunji Hahn, Taehee Kim, Eunice Pagaduan, Bea Fabre, Misako Ota, Ana Teng, Sofia Gomez, Matty Angeles, Maria Zheng, and Jenny Zheng.

In other results that night, MHS II defeated Saipan Southern High School, 21-8, 21-15; Saipan International School II beat Kagman High School II in three tough sets, 21-13, 15-21, 15-11; Agape Christian School II won against MCS II, 15-21, 21-17, 15-12; MHS lost to SIS, 21-12, 21-18; and ACS edged KHS, 21-23, 21-10, 15-7.

LEIGH GASES

Saipan International School's Kaithlyn Chavez, right, sets the ball during their game against Marianas High School in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2023-2024 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium last Thursday night.

INT'L

From page 20

among college students and other stakeholders.

FISU Oceania has 12 member countries known as National University Sport Federations.

Each federation differs in size, structure and resources, which include the NMI, American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Samoa.

Contact NMI's FISU program lead Denise Myers at denise.myers@marianas.edu for more information on the 4th Annual International Day of University Sport, or visit their Facebook page at Northern Mariana Islands College Sport or their Instagram page at nmi_collegesports.

Dodgers win 10th NL West title in 11 years with victory over Mariners.

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

NBA takes steps to try to ensure its star players appear in more games.

PAGE 19

211.4-lb catch tops Johnnie Walker tourney

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Papa San, captained by Jack Torres, hauled in a whopping 211.4-lb marlin and made them over $26,000 richer from the prize money of the Saipan Fishermen's Association Inaugural Johnnie Walker Blue Label Classic Bill Fish Tournament.

After putting up a more than 30-minute fight between the rod, the reel, the water, and the fish, Papa San's crew of four anglers and a captain finally won the battle with the bill fish off the waters of Saipan last Saturday.

Torres said "we actually had three strikes that we hooked up—and on the last one, we were lucky… it almost finished the spool so it was a good fight." He said that they hauled it in at around 9:30am, just about 3 1/2 hours out from the start of the tournament.

Torres said that he never misses out on a fishing tour-

See 211.4-LB on Page 19

FLOYD MASGA

The crew of *Papa San,* including its captain Jack Torres, standing second from left, pose with their 211.4-lb marlin, which was enough to make them over $26,000 richer after the Saipan Fishermen's Association Inaugural Johnnie Walker Blue Label Classic Bill Fish Tournament last Saturday at the Smiling Cove.

Int'l Day of University Sport on Sept. 20

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands College Sports is hosting the 4th Annual International Day of University Sport this Wednesday, Sept. 20, at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field from 5pm to 7pm.

Ultimate frisbee, volleyball, and soccer are once again the main sports this year. Along with sports, there will be raffles and refreshments.

IDUS program lead Denise Myers invites the community to come out and get moving. "IDUS is truly a celebration of sport and wellness. It doesn't matter if you are a lifelong lover of sport or have never played a sport in your life, IDUS is a chance to come out and celebrate being active through sport," she said.

She added, "Each year we try to build an even better event than last year. This year, the [Northern Marianas Athletics] is joining the fun by including long jump as well as a relay race!

"We rely on the support of volunteers and sports organizations to share their time and talents to make the event a great one," said Myers.

NMICS, in association with The International University Sports Federation, Northern Marianas Sports Association, and Northern Marianas College, is hosting the 4th Annual International Day of University Sports celebration alongside over 100 other countries.

The annual celebration, which started in 2016, is the brainchild of FISU and endorsed by the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization to promote sports, health and wellness, and community engagement

See INT'L on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the 3rd Annual International Day of University Sport are seen during an Ultimate Frisbee competition at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Lady Eagles soar high in HS girls v-ball

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles came back to win in two sets despite trailing early against Mount Carmel School Lady Knights in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2023-2024 last Thursday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lady Knights came out of the opening serve with aggression as they tackled each return and rally with fervor. Hope McQuay set up Mia Abuan almost perfectly each time as the Lady Eagles were still trying to gather their senses.

But even as the 2022-2023 six-time defending champions Lady Eagles team fell behind 4-10 early on, multi-sport athlete Azzy Fatialofa later found her bearings defending and attacking at the net—and it was smooth sailing from there.

After several unreturnable serves by Dianna Zheng and Alyssa Omampo—complemented by well-placed spikes from the hard-hitting Fatialofa—the Lady Eagles caught up, 10-13.

See LADY on Page 19

LEIGH GASES

Mount Carmel School's Hope McQuay, right, and Grace Christian Academy's Azzy Fatialofa, battle over the net in the first set of their game in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2023-2024 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium last Thursday night.